

Alabama governor signs near-total abortion ban into law

By KIM CHANDLER and
BLAKE PATERSON
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)

— Alabama's Republican governor signed the most stringent abortion legislation in the nation Wednesday, making performing an abortion a felony in nearly all cases.

"To the bill's many supporters, this legislation stands as a powerful testament to Alabamians' deeply held belief that every life is precious and that every life is a sacred gift from God," Gov. Kay Ivey said in a statement.

The bill's sponsors want to give conservatives on the U.S. Supreme Court a chance to gut abortion rights nationwide, but Democrats and abortion rights advocates criticized the bill as a slap in the face to women voters.



Laura Stiller hands out coat hangers as she talks about illegal abortions during a rally against a ban on nearly all abortions outside of the Alabama State House in Montgomery, Ala., on Tuesday, May 14, 2019.

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Associated Press



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Trump issues order apparently aimed at China's Huawei

By **FRANK BAJAK** and
TALI ARBEL

Associated Press

President Donald Trump issued an executive order Wednesday apparently aimed at banning equipment from Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei from U.S. networks. It declares a national economic emergency that empowers the government to ban the technology and services of "foreign adversaries" deemed to pose unacceptable risks to national security — including from cyberespionage and sabotage. While it doesn't name specific countries or companies, it follows months of U.S. pressure on Huawei. It gives the Department of Commerce 150 days to come up with regulations.

The order addresses U.S. government concerns that equipment from Chinese suppliers could pose an espionage threat to U.S. internet and telecommunications infrastructure. Huawei, the world's biggest supplier of network gear, has been deemed a danger in U.S.



In this March 7, 2019 file photo, a logo of Huawei is displayed at a shop in Shenzhen, China's Guangdong province.

national security circles for the better part of a decade. U.S. justice and intelligence officials say Chinese economic espionage and trade secret theft is rampant. U.S. officials have presented no evidence, however, of any Huawei equipment in the U.S. or elsewhere being compromised by backdoors in-

stalled by the manufacturer to facilitate espionage by Beijing. Huawei vehemently denies involvement in Chinese spying.

A senior U.S. administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told reporters in a hastily arranged call that the order was "company and country agnostic" and said

it would not be retroactive. Officials said "interim regulations" were expected before final rules were set but were vague on what that meant.

Washington and Beijing are locked in a trade war that partly reflects a struggle for global economic and technological dominance. In a statement, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai called the executive order "a significant step toward securing America's networks."

"It signals to U.S. friends and allies how far Washington is willing to go to block Huawei," said Adam Segal, cybersecurity director at the Council on Foreign Relations. Many in Europe have resisted a fierce U.S. diplomatic campaign to institute a wholesale ban on the Chinese company's equipment in their next-generation 5G wireless networks. Sen. Mark Warner, vice chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee and a former telecoms executive, called the order "a needed step" in a statement endorsing the State Department's contention that Chinese law compels Huawei to act as an agent of the state. He cautioned, however, that its implementation not "harm or stifle" legitimate business. The order's existence in draft form was first reported

by The Washington Post last June. Segal said that with U.S.-China trade talks at a standstill, the White House "felt the time had finally come to pull the trigger."

It is a "low cost signal of resolve from the Trump administration," Segal said, noting that there is little at stake economically.

All major U.S. wireless carriers and internet providers had already sworn off Chinese-made equipment after a 2012 report by the House Intelligence Committee said Huawei and ZTE, China's No. 2 telecoms equipment company, should be excluded as enablers of Beijing-directed espionage. Last year, Trump signed a bill that barred the U.S. government and its contractors from using equipment from the Chinese suppliers.

The FCC also has a rule in the works that would cut off subsidies for companies that any equipment banned as posing a national security threat. Huawei's handsets are virtually non-existent in the U.S. and last week the FCC rejected a Chinese phone company's bid to provide domestic service.

Only about 2 percent of telecom equipment purchased by North American carriers was Huawei-made in 2017. The domestic economic impact will be restricted mostly to small rural carriers for whom Huawei equipment in particular has been attractive due to its lower costs.

That could make it more difficult to expand access to speedy internet in rural areas.

Blair Levin, an adviser to research firm New Street Research and a former FCC official, said the order is likely to widen the digital divide.

Roger Entner, founder of telecom research firm Recon Analytics, tweeted: "Banning Huawei in the U.S. has the FCC in a conundrum: Low cost Huawei equipment helps to build out broadband in rural America faster." He wondered if the FCC would subsidize small rural carriers. □



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Alabama governor signs near-total abortion ban into law

Continued from Front

"It just completely disregards women and the value of women and their voice. We have once again silenced women on a very personal issue," said Sen. Linda Coleman-Madison, a Birmingham Democrat.

Coleman-Madison said she hopes the measure awakens a "sleeping giant" of women voters in the state. But Republican pollster Chris Kratzer noted that there is no congressional district and likely no legislative district with enough swing voters to put Republicans at serious risk in the state.

"The people who are outraged about this are not the people who are electing these guys, generally speaking, especially when we're talking about the primary," he said.

Further, Kratzer argued, there aren't enough potential swing voters and disenchanted Republicans to make the issue any kind of advantage for the lone Democrat elected to statewide office, U.S. Sen. Doug Jones, who scored a surprise win in a 2017 special election.

Jones upset Republican Roy Moore in part on the strength of GOP-leaning college graduates abandoning the controversial Moore. But Kratzer said that was more about Moore's long history of flouting federal courts as chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court and accusations that Moore sexually harassed teens when he was in his

30s — not Moore's hardline stance on abortion.

The legislation Alabama senators passed Tuesday would make performing an abortion at any stage of pregnancy a felony punishable by 10 to 99 years or life in prison for the provider. The only exception would be when the woman's health is at serious risk. Women seeking or undergoing abortions wouldn't be punished.

Rep. Terri Collins, the bill's sponsor, said she believes the measure reflects the beliefs of the majority of the state electorate. Ivey acknowledged Wednesday that the measure may be unenforceable in the short term. The law is set to go into effect six months after being signed, but supporters expect it to be blocked by lower courts as they fight toward the Supreme Court. "The sponsors of this bill believe that it is time, once again, for the U.S. Supreme Court to revisit this important matter, and they believe this act may bring about the best opportunity for this to occur," Ivey said. Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio and Georgia recently have approved bans on abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detected, which can occur in about the sixth week of pregnancy. The Alabama bill goes further by seeking to ban abortion outright.

Abortion rights advocates vowed swift legal action. "We vowed to fight this dangerous abortion ban every step of the way and we meant what we said. We haven't lost a case

in Alabama yet and we don't plan to start now. We will see Governor Ivey in court," said Staci Fox, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Southeast.

One mile from the Alabama Statehouse — down the street from the Governor's Mansion — sits Montgomery's only abortion clinic, one of three performing abortions in the state. Because of its location, the clinic sees a stream of patients from Mississippi and the Florida Panhandle because other clinics have closed. □



This photograph released by the state shows Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey signing a bill that virtually outlaws abortion in the state on Wednesday, May 15, 2019, in Montgomery, Ala.

Associated Press

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Bernie Sanders zeros in on Joe Biden as his favorite foil

By **JUANA SUMMERS**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bernie Sanders is quick to slam Joe Biden's past support of free trade deals and the Iraq War.

He is warning him against a "middle ground" approach to addressing climate change. His campaign sends fundraising appeals with a simple, foreboding subject line: "Joe Biden ." become Sanders' favorite foil.

No one seeking the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination has been as aggressive as the Vermont senator in highlighting episodes from the former vice president's past to sow skepticism in the party's progressive base.

The strategy is reminiscent of Sanders' approach to the 2016 Democratic primary, when he relentlessly slammed Hillary Clinton as an establishment pawn. And it's a reminder that, even when Sanders lags in the polls, he is often most comfortable when he's taking on top Democrats, hoping that such attacks will energize his most loyal supporters.

That was easy to do in 2016 when he was the sole outsider candidate taking on one of the most recognizable names in Democratic politics. It could be tougher now that he's a leading contender for the nomination who has spent the past several years building an organization to support his candidacy.

"Bernie is trying to rekindle the magic of 2016, where he was the outsider running against a longtime member of the establishment," said Dan Pfeiffer, a former senior adviser to President Barack Obama.

"The challenge is that this year there are no candidates with a claim to outsider status."

progressive, particularly on environmental and health care policies. He pushed back at a news report that

brand, arguing that "we do need to finish this green revolution in a way that is rational" and in a way the

campaign, said Biden has the luxury of ignoring Sanders' attacks as the race right now appears to be "Joe Biden versus about 20 other candidates."

"It makes sense that he's trying to do it as long as he can, but we're in May of 2019. It's going to get rough, which is a good thing because we want a nominee to emerge battle tested," Petkanas said.

In New Hampshire, which Sanders captured by 22 percentage points in 2016 and his campaign views as vital this year, voters said they were wary of the campaign devolving into political mudslinging.

Lori Backman, 55, bemoaned the ideological tug-of-war, worrying that it will ensure Trump's reelection.

"We can't have the splintering," she said, arguing that any Democrat is better on policy than the current administration. "We need a strong message of unity up front. That's how you win."

While Sanders benefited from running behind Clinton in 2016, 73-year-old Marilyn Learner said she didn't think Sanders would have that same advantage this time if Biden filled the Clinton role.

"Bernie's ideas were novel," the retired teacher said. "And they're not novel now."

Mike Ward, a 62-year-old retired postal worker, said Democrats should lay off one another for the time being but that he understands Sanders' approach. "He's starting to slip in the polls," Ward said.

"And it's due to Biden jumping in the race. That's obvious. So, he's just kind of scrambling to maintain his standing." □



In this April 24, 2019, file photo, Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., answers questions during a presidential forum held by She The People on the Texas State University campus in Houston. Biden has in his nearly three weeks as a presidential candidate ,

Associated Press

A Sanders representative declined to comment. Mark Longabaugh, an adviser to Sanders' 2016 campaign, said the senator ran then by pitting himself against Wall Street, pharmaceutical drug companies and the billionaire Koch brothers, who funded conservative causes and campaigns.

Sanders' critiques of Biden come as the former vice president is taking the lead in many polls, displacing Sanders from the top.

For his part, Biden only nods at the tensions without mentioning Sanders by name.

Campaigning in New Hampshire this week, Biden defended his record as

he was considering a "middle ground" on climate policy that prompted stinging criticism from Sanders and Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York.

"I was in this area long before most anybody else was, and I have a record," he said, calling himself "a leader in climate change" and referring to a 1987 Senate floor speech during which he referred to a warming Earth as an "existential threat."

He said he'll deliver a major speech on climate issues later this month, and he called for an "environmental revolution." But he also doubled down on his overall pragmatic political

nation "can afford."

For now at least, Biden is keeping his singular focus on President Donald Trump, a posture that also gives him the air of Democratic front-runner .

"You will never hear me speak ill of another Democratic candidate for president," Biden said Tuesday. How long he can do that, though, is uncertain. With the first debates set for June, the race will soon move into another phase in which nearly two dozen candidates seeking the party's nomination will try to create breakout moments.

Zac Petkanas, a Democratic strategist who served as an adviser to Clinton's 2016

Officials: PG&E equipment sparked deadly California wildfire

By JANIE HAR

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Pacific Gas & Electric Corp. power lines sparked a Northern California blaze that killed 85 people last year, making it the deadliest U.S. wildfire in a century, state fire officials said Wednesday.

Cal Fire said transmission lines owned and operated by the San Francisco-based utility started the Nov. 8 fire that nearly destroyed the town of Paradise in the Sierra Nevada foothills.

The fire wiped out nearly 15,000 homes. Many of those killed were elderly or disabled. The oldest was 99.

The investigation also identified a second nearby ignition site involving PG&E's electrical distribution lines that had come into contact with vegetation.

The second fire was quickly consumed by the initial fire. The disclosure came on the same day the utility's new chief executive was testifying before a legislative committee in Sacramento. Bill Johnson told the state Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee he had expected the utility would be blamed for the fire.

"I have made the assumption when I got here that PG&E equipment caused the fire," he said, noting the utility had said that was probable in recent filings. "It's a disappointment that this happened. Let's not do it again."

Cal Fire did not release its full investigative report, saying it had been forwarded to the Butte County district attorney's office, which is considering criminal charges against the utility.

An attorney representing 2,000 victims of the fire said the handling of the findings indicates the utility may have broken the law.

Lawyer Mike Danko said Cal Fire will normally release its reports publicly if it finds no laws were broken. However, he said, referring the report to prosecutors suggests Cal Fire likely has evidence that the utility was negligent on safety issues.



In this Nov. 9, 2018 file photo, Pacific Gas & Electric crews work to restore power lines in Paradise, Calif.

"We know from our work that PG&E knew its towers in the area were corroded and were at risk of failing," Danko said.

A call seeking comment from Butte County prosecutors was not immediately returned. A PG&E representative did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

The utility, which filed for bankruptcy protection in January, said in February it was "probable" that one of its transmission lines sparked the blaze.

PG&E has estimated its total liability from the Paradise fire and 2017 wildfires could top \$30 billion.

The fire spread rapidly, burning into the communities of Concow and Magalia and the outskirts of Chico.

Authorities said it was like no fire they had seen before.

Strong wind gusts blew hot embers a mile or more, creating multiple fires.

"The tinder dry vegetation and red flag conditions consisting of strong winds, low humidity and warm temperatures promoted this fire and caused extreme rates of spread," Cal fire said in its release.

The utility previously acknowledged that the Caribou-Palermo transmission line lost power right before the fire and was later found

to be damaged.

Paradise Mayor Jody Jones said Wednesday she was not surprised to hear Pacific Gas & Electric power lines sparked the blaze that decimated her town and she hopes the findings help the city's legal case against the utility.

"It's nice to have a definite answer," Jones said.

Paradise sued PG&E in January seeking damages for the loss of infrastructure, land, property, trees, public and natural resources, and lost taxpayer resources.

The suit alleges the blaze started when electrical infrastructure owned, operated and maintained by PG&E failed, causing a spark that ignited the blaze.

Associated Press

The suit also alleges that PG&E had planned to de-energize power lines as a precaution against starting a fire but canceled those plans despite windy conditions.

PG&E's bankruptcy reorganization plan is due by the end of May, but it has requested an extension until November.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom said in a Wednesday filing that PG&E shouldn't get an extra six months to reorganize. He said the utility's request continues to show it lacks an urgent focus on improving safety.

Newsom and lawmakers are working on proposals related to utility liability for wildfires that could affect the bankruptcy. □

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FAA chief defends handling of Boeing Max safety approval

By **DAVID KOENIG, MARCY GORDON and TOM KRISHER**
WASHINGTON (AP) —

The acting chief of the Federal Aviation Administration defended his agency's safety certification of the Boeing 737 Max jetliner, the plane involved in two deadly crashes, and the FAA's decision not to ground the jet until other regulators around the world had already done so.

During a congressional hearing Wednesday, the FAA official, Daniel Elwell, also stood by the agency's decades-old policy of using employees of aircraft manufacturers like Boeing to conduct inspections on their own companies' work. Boeing is updating an automated flight-control system that has been implicated in the two crashes involving the 737 Max. Elwell said he expects Boeing to complete its work "in the next week or so," after which the FAA will analyze the software changes and conduct test flights.

"In the U.S., the 737 Max will return to service only when the FAA's analysis of the facts and technical data indicate that it is safe to do so," Elwell said.

Meanwhile, the Senate Commerce Committee held a short hearing for President Donald Trump's choice to take over the FAA: Stephen Dickson, a former Delta Air Lines pilot and executive.

During the two-hour questioning of Elwell by the House aviation subcommittee, lawmakers pressed him on the FAA's reliance on designated Boeing employees during the planes' certification process.

Rep. Dina Titus, D-Nev., told Elwell that the public believes "you were in bed with those you were supposed to be regulating, and that's why it took so long" to ground the planes. "The FAA has a credibility problem," declared the subcommittee chairman, Rick Larsen, D-Wash.

The 737 Max is Boeing's best-selling plane and it is built in his home state of Washington. Larsen said Congress must help make the pub-

ment, although its pilot union confirmed that it too has received a subpoena. Congressional investigations into the FAA's relation-

mated flight-control system that can push the nose of the plane down if a single sensor detects that the plane could be nearing an

The Boeing representative called the Lion Air crash a tragedy, adding, "an even worse thing would be another one." He promised a software update in six weeks.

The update was still not done when the Ethiopian crash occurred more than three months later.

"Boeing did not treat the 737 Max 8 situation like the emergency it was," said Daniel Carey, president of the American Airlines pilots' union, which has filed public records related to the matter. Carey said his pilots are seeking "proper oversight" of Boeing, the FAA and airlines including their own. Boeing representatives were not invited to Wednesday's hearing.

Nadia Milleron, whose daughter, Samya Stumo, was on the Ethiopian Airlines plane, was in the audience. She said FAA seems to be rushing to approve Boeing's fixes to the Max even before the accident investigations are finished — something that could take many months.

"It is possible that these planes should never go back in the air," she said.

Milleron, whose family is suing Boeing and Ethiopian Airlines, said travelers hold the final power to ground the plane.

"The only thing that is going to stop this is the public," Milleron said in an interview.

"If the public is concerned and if the Boeing 737 Max 8 ... becomes toxic ... that's going to make a change." Across Capitol Hill, the Senate Commerce Committee held a relatively placid hearing for Dickson, the nominee to replace Elwell, FAA's acting administrator since January 2018.

Dickson promised that if he is confirmed by the full Senate, he would not hesitate to take enforcement action against companies and FAA would not be captive to the industry it regulates.

U.S. aviation has an enviable safety record over the past decade, Dickson said, but the industry is only as good as the last takeoff or landing. □



Daniel Elwell, acting administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, testifies during a House Transportation Committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, May 15, 2019, on the status of the Boeing 737 MAX aircraft.

Associated Press

lic feel safe about flying because "if they don't fly, airlines don't need to buy airplanes," and "then there will be no jobs" in aircraft manufacturing. Other lawmakers defended the FAA and Boeing and suggested that the Oct. 29 crash of a Lion Air jet off Indonesia and the March 10 crash of an Ethiopian Airlines Max were due at least partly to pilot error. A total of 346 people were killed in the crashes. "It bothers me that we continue to tear down our system based on what has happened in two other countries," said Rep. Sam Graves, R-Mo.

Boeing is already the subject of a criminal investigation by the Justice Department. Boeing customers Southwest Airlines and American Airlines and their pilot unions have received subpoenas related to that investigation; United Airlines, which also flew the Max until it was grounded in March, declined to com-

ship with Boeing are in the early stages. Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., who heads the full Transportation Committee, said he and Larsen have been frustrated after seeking information from Boeing.

"Boeing has yet to provide a single document," he said. "We've got to get to the bottom of this."

Elwell defended FAA's practice of designating employees of Boeing and other aerospace manufacturers to do some inspection work, saying it takes advantage of industry expertise, and "when done right, is indispensable to the health and safety of our system."

At a Senate hearing in March, Elwell said it would cost \$1.8 billion a year if FAA did all the work done by designees at companies regulated by the agency. On Wednesday, the acting chief defended the FAA's 2017 approval of the Max including its new auto-

aerodynamic stall.

That system, called MCAS, was triggered on both fatal flights by faulty sensor readings, and pilots were not able to regain control of the planes as they plunged to Earth. Airlines and pilots were not told about MCAS until after the October crash.

"When I first heard of this, (I) thought that the MCAS should have been more adequately explained in the ops manual and the flight manual," Elwell said. Boeing is changing MCAS to make it less powerful, and to link the system to two sensors instead of one. And it will include more explanation of the system, Elwell said, "to make pilots more aware and respond better to an anomaly."

American Airlines pilots pressed Boeing in November — shortly after the first Max crash — to fix the software quickly.

"We don't want to rush and do a crappy job of fixing things," a Boeing official responded, according to a recording of the meeting. "We also don't want to fix the wrong things."

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Klatch Coffee owner Bo Thiara holds a cup of Elida Natural Geisha coffee at his shop in San Francisco, Wednesday, May 15, 2019.

Associated Press

California cafe touts its \$75 coffee as the world's priciest

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A California cafe is brewing up what it calls the world's most expensive coffee — at \$75 a cup.

Klatch Coffee is serving the exclusive brew, the Elida Natural Geisha 803, at its branches in Southern California and San Francisco. The 803 in the coffee's name refers to the record-breaking \$803 per pound the organic beans sold for at a recent auction after winning the Best of Panama coffee competition, said Bo Thiara, co-owner of the Klatch branch in San Francisco. He calls the annual competition the coffee world's equivalent of the Oscars.

Only 100 pounds (45 kilograms) of the beans were available for purchase, and most went to Japan, China and Taiwan, Thiara said. Klatch secured 10 pounds (4.5 kilograms) and is the only chain in North America to have it.

The coffee's high quality and limited supply set

off a bidding war that determined its astronomical price, topping last year's winning beans that sold for \$601 per pound, Thiara said. Klatch describes the coffee as a rare variety of Arabica from Panama that has a floral, tea-like flavor with hints of jasmine and berries. The 10 pounds of beans will produce about 80 cups of coffee, Thiara said. A few lucky coffee lovers got to try free samples Wednesday at the San Francisco branch, where promotional signs are on display advertising, "World's Most Expensive Coffee."

One of them was San Francisco resident Lauren Svensson, who said it was "very different" from any coffee she'd ever tasted. "My mind was a little blown about the fact that a \$75 cup of coffee even exists," she said, "but it was shockingly good."

Her friend, Charlie Sinhase-ni, also gave his free sample a positive review. □

Alaska floatplanes collided at 3,300 feet before crashing

By RACHEL D'ORO and MARK THIESSEN

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

— Two sightseeing planes carrying cruise ship passengers in Alaska collided at about the 3,300-foot (1,006-meter) level before they crashed, the National Transportation Safety Board announced after a team arrived from Washington, D.C., to investigate the crash.

The two planes collided in midair Monday, and the Coast Guard raised the death toll to six people on Tuesday after finding the bodies of two people who had been missing. Five of the dead were passengers and the sixth was the pilot of one of the planes.

Federal investigators said the larger plane, a de Havilland Otter DHC-3 with 10 passengers and its pilot, had descended from 3,800 feet (1,158 meters) feet and collided with a smaller de Havilland DHC-2 Beaver, carrying four passengers from the same cruise ship, the Royal Princess, and the pilot. The federal investigation into the cause of the crash could take months, but a preliminary report is expected to be released within two weeks, said Peter Knudson, a spokesman for the NTSB.

Coast Guard Lt. Brian Dykens said Tuesday evening that his agency and the Ketchikan Volunteer Rescue Squad found the two bodies of those who were missing near the crash site of the smaller plane involved in the collision, a single-engine de



This May 13, 2019 photo provided by Ryan Sinkey, shows a Coast Guard Station Ketchikan response boat crew searching for survivors from a downed floatplane in the vicinity of George Inlet near Ketchikan, Alaska. Two floatplanes carrying cruise ship tourists collided Monday near the southeast Alaska town of Ketchikan.

Associated Press

Havilland DHC-2 Beaver. The planes came down about a mile and a half (2.4 kilometers) apart, with some of the debris falling on land near George Inlet, about 8 miles (13 kilometers) from the cruise ship port of Ketchikan. The Beaver, the smaller plane, appears to have broken apart in midair, according to Jerry Kiffer, duty incident commander of the Ketchikan Volunteer Rescue Squad. He said the plane's tail and section of the fuselage were 900 feet (275 meters) from the aircraft's floats, which landed near shore.

The smaller plane was partially submerged in the shore of George Inlet after the single-engine plane overturned and hit some trees before crashing, according to Coast Guard Lt. Brian Dykens. The larger Otter landed in water and sank, he said. One passenger on the larger plane

died, as did two passengers and the pilot on the smaller plane, Princess Cruises said in a statement. Alaska State Troopers in a statement late Tuesday identified the passengers who died as 46-year-old Louis Botha of San Diego, 56-year-old Simon Brodie from Temple, New South Wales, Australia, 62-year-old Cassandra Webb from St. Louis, 39-year-old Ryan Wilk from Utah and 37-year-old Elsa Wilk of Richmond, British Columbia, Canada. Also killed was the pilot of one of the planes, 46-year-old Randy Sullivan of Ketchikan. The larger plane was operated by Taquan Air of Ketchikan and passengers booked the flights through the cruise ship as an excursion. The other plane was operated by Mountain Air Service of Ketchikan, and the four booked the flight independent of the cruise ship, Princess Cruises said. □

Germany's Merkel welcomes European unity over Iran

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — German Chancellor Angela Merkel says that Europe needs to “reposition” itself in a changing world and is welcoming European powers’ unity over Iran, a contrast with their deep divisions over the Iraq war 16 years ago.

Merkel said in an interview with Germany’s daily Sued-deutsche Zeitung released Wednesday that Europe needs “forward-looking” arguments and stressed that “simply pointing to seven decades of peace is no longer enough to justify Europe.”

Before European Parliament elections May 23-26, she said there is “no doubt that Europe needs to reposition itself in a changed world,” in which some post-World War II certainties no longer hold.

Merkel acknowledged that Europe appears weak in the standoff over Iran because, with the dollar’s role as a leading global currency, it struggles to counter U.S. sanctions as it tries to



German Chancellor Angela Merkel arrives for the weekly cabinet meeting at the chancellery in Berlin, Germany, Wednesday, May 15, 2019.

salvage the nuclear deal with Tehran. But she said that Europe has also made progress.

“Germany, France and Britain are taking a different approach from the U.S. on the question of the Iran agreement,” she was quoted as saying. “For all our other differences, we even have common inter-

ests here with Russia and China.”

“That Europe is no longer divided on this important question as it was in the Iraq war is a value in itself,” Merkel added. Germany and France opposed the U.S.-led war in Iraq in 2003, while countries including Britain and Poland supported Washington.

However, she added that Europe has a “realistic” assessment of its capabilities and “must strengthen them for the future.”

She said it is making good progress on defense cooperation.

Asked what effect global challenges from China, Russia and the U.S. are having on Europe, she said

that they are making the EU find common positions, which is often difficult “but we succeed” — for instance in policy on Ukraine and Africa. She conceded that “our political strength doesn’t yet match our economic capabilities.”

Next week’s EU elections are expected to boost populist parties at the expense of the political center.

Asked how much populism the 28-nation EU can take before it collapses, Merkel said that “this is indeed a time when we have to fight for our principles and fundamental values.”

European leaders will decide “how far to let populism go, or whether we ultimately have the will to take on joint responsibility.”

“So far, we have always managed to do so,” she added. So as not to endanger Europe, she said, “everyone needs to put themselves in others’ shoes, to be willing to compromise, remain honest and always treat each other carefully.” □

Poland demands reaction over assault of ambassador to Israel

By VANESSA GERA ARON HELLER

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) —

Poland’s prime minister on Wednesday condemned what he described as a “xenophobic act of aggression” on the country’s ambassador to Israel, who was spat at and verbally abused on a Tel Aviv street at a time of rising tensions between the two nations.

Israeli officials expressed shock at the assault on Marek Magierowski on Tuesday afternoon and were investigating the incident. Israeli police said they had detained and released a 65-year-old man suspected of approaching the ambassador, who was sitting in his car in front of the Polish Embassy, and spitting at him.

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said the suspect remained under house arrest until Thursday and is “not permitted to be in the



In this Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018 file photo, Deputy Secretary of State for the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Marek Magierowski poses for photographs ahead of the ministerial meeting of the Visegrad Group (V4) countries in Budapest, Hungary.

area of the Polish Embassy for 30 days.”

The incident comes amid a bitter standoff between Poland and Israel over how to remember the Holocaust

and over demands that Poland pay reparations for former Jewish properties that were seized by Nazi Germany during World War II and later nationalized

by Poland’s communist regime.

Israeli Ambassador Anna Azari was summoned to the Polish Foreign Ministry in Warsaw on Wednesday

over the incident. Michal Dworczyk, the head of Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki’s office, said the Polish government expects the perpetrator to be punished.

Morawiecki expressed his concern at what he described as a “racist” attack. “Poland strongly condemns this xenophobic act of aggression. Violence against diplomats or any other citizens should never be tolerated,” Morawiecki said.

The New York-based American Jewish Committee said it was “stunned” by the attack.

“Violence against a diplomat is totally unacceptable,” CEO David Harris said, calling the attack “outrageous.”

Harris stressed the role of dialogue as a way of addressing any disagreements and reinforcing the “longstanding, strong, and mutually beneficial Israel-Poland relationship.” □



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Migration and Trump on the menu as EU candidates face off

By LORNE COOK
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The leading candidates in the European Union elections grappled with the thorny issue of migration, rising nationalism and even testy ties with U.S. President Donald Trump in a largely drama-free debate Wednesday barely a week before May 23-26 polls.

Quizzed by three European journalists over 90 minutes, the six candidates for Jean-Claude Juncker's post as president of the EU's powerful executive arm also tackled youth unemployment, taxes and climate change in a debate among six mainstream party candidates that was conducted almost exclusively in English despite their different nationalities.

Some 400 million people are eligible next week to choose members of the European Parliament, which is the EU's only democratically elected institution. Turnout is usually low, and those who do cast ballots routinely vote in protest



From left, Czech Republic's Jan Zahradil, Spain's Nico Cue, Germany's Ska Keller, Denmark's Margrethe Vestager, Netherlands's Frans Timmermans and Germany's Manfred Weber pose on stage prior to a debate of the candidates to the presidency of the Commission at the European Parliament in Brussels, Wednesday, May 15, 2019.

Associated Press

against the policies of national governments.

Surveys suggest that nationalist and far-right parties will gain ground but that mainstream groups will hold control over the assembly despite losing seats. One of the biggest threats

to EU unity has been the inability to manage the arrival of well over 1 million migrants in 2015. Italy and Greece felt abandoned to deal with people seeking refuge or jobs, while other countries only watched.

"Every time a person dies

in the Mediterranean, Europe loses a bit of its soul. So we're losing who we are, we're losing our values by not solving this problem," said Frans Timmermans, a Dutch candidate from the Socialist Party of Europe and Juncker's right hand

man at the European Commission. The political crisis has been a vote winner for anti-migrant and far-right parties, notably in Austria, Britain, France and Italy.

"Nationalism, and egoism, is back on this continent," said Manfred Weber, a German from the center-right European People's Party, the biggest bloc in the assembly, and a favorite to win Juncker's job.

He said a system should be set up "to defend our values" by penalizing breaches of the rule of law and other democratic norms by some member governments. "We can also use the funds, the money of Europe, to sanction those who are not ready to respect our fundamental principles," he added.

One of the EU's biggest challenges has been establishing its place on the global political stage. The 28-nation bloc is the world's biggest donor of aid, providing extensive humanitarian assistance notably to the Palestinian territories and across Africa. □

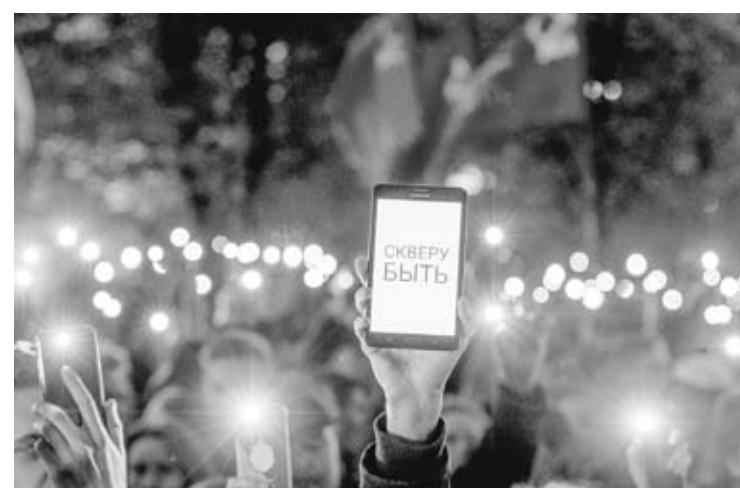
Thousands protest against cathedral in Russian city

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Several thousand people rallied on Wednesday in Russia's fourth-largest city as the showdown between authorities and activists protesting the plans to build a new cathedral in a local park entered its third day. Thousands gathered in a riverside park in Yekaterinburg Wednesday evening. Some of them were on bicycles, more camped out on the grass while others were walking their dogs. As night fell, protesters turned on the light on their mobile phones and flashlights, chanting "We stand for the park!" Security measures for what has largely been a peaceful protest were heightened on the eve of the rally, with hundreds of riot police deployed to the park. Earlier, construction workers started building a new, sturdy

fence to replace the chain-link fence that the protesters brought down a day earlier. Opponents of the cathedral, which is promoted by authorities and funded by the owners of two major local industrial giants, say the construction project smack in the city center would take away green and recreational space needed by residents of a city with 1.5 million people.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters earlier Wednesday that the Kremlin has full trust in the local government to handle the protests but also decried the rallies which he described as unsanctioned demonstrations which violate Russian law. Hundreds of protesters stayed in the park well after midnight facing several rows of riot police who were encircling the fence around the proposed construction site. □



Demonstrators wave their cell phones, with the words on one of them reading "Park has to be!" as they gather in front of a new built fence blocked by police protesting plans to construct a cathedral in a park in Yekaterinburg, Russia, Wednesday, May 15, 2019.

Associated Press

UN envoy urges new pullouts from Yemen ports and peace steps

By **EDITH M. LEDERER**

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The U.N. envoy for Yemen urged the warring parties Wednesday to maintain the momentum of the initial pullout of Houthi rebel forces from three ports by moving quickly to larger joint withdrawals — and to work urgently on a political solution to the devastating conflict.

Martin Griffiths told the Security Council there are “signs of hope” but also “alarming signs in recent days” that progress can be threatened, noting that war often trumps peace.

He pointed to an escalation of violence in Yemen’s southern Dhale province, which had been under the control of forces loyal to the internationally recognized government. He also expressed serious concern at news of a drone attack Tuesday on oil facilities in neighboring Saudi Arabia, saying “we cannot ignore how these developments affect the political process.”

The conflict in Yemen began with the 2014 takeover of the capital, Sanaa, by the Iran-backed Houthis. A Saudi-led coalition allied with the internationally recognized government has



This Sept. 29, 2018 file photo shows idle cargo and oil tanker ships at the port of Hodeida, Yemen. Associated Press

been fighting the Houthis since 2015.

The fighting in the Arab world’s poorest country has killed thousands of civilians, left millions suffering from food and medical care shortages and pushed the country to the brink of famine.

“Yemen remains at the crossroads between war and peace,” Griffiths said, despite the significance of the U.N.-monitored Houthi withdrawals from the key port of Hodeida and the smaller ports of Salif and Ras Issa between May 11-

14. The port at Hodeida handles about 70 percent of Yemen’s commercial and humanitarian imports. He said the withdrawals must be followed by “concrete actions” by the government and the Houthis to deliver on their commitments to further redeployments under the agreement signed in Sweden in December.

A U.N. official has said the first phase of redeployment involves a pullback of several kilometers (miles) by the Houthis and coalition forces, and the second

phase involves a withdrawal of 18 to 30 kilometers (11 to 18 1/2 miles), depending on the location and fighters.

Both sides have agreed on the operational plan for phase one and Griffiths urged them to agree on the plan for phase two.

He urged the Security Council to welcome the redeployments, urge the parties to work quickly to implement the remaining withdrawals, and work urgently with the U.N. on a political solution.

“These beginnings, these

early shoots, must be protected from the threat of war,” Griffiths said. “We must not allow war to take peace off the table.”

U.N. humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock told the council that 10 million Yemenis are relying on food assistance to survive and “the specter of famine still looms.”

A resurgent cholera outbreak has affected 300,000 people so far this year — compared to 370,000 during all of 2018, he said.

Henrietta Fore, head of the U.N. children’s agency UNICEF, told the council that since the fighting began in Yemen four years ago, 7,300 children have been killed or injured, and the numbers are no doubt higher because these are verified numbers.

She said 360,000 children are suffering from severe acute malnutrition and half the children under the age of five — 2.5 million — are stunted, “and stunting is irreversible.”

“Yemen is spiraling perilously close to the brink,” Fore said.

She urged the parties to agree to “days of tranquility” to vaccinate children — and to enable 15 million Yemeni children to live in peace. □

Palestinians mark anniversary of mass displacement

By **FARES AKRAM**

Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) —

Palestinians on Wednesday marked the 71st anniversary of their mass displacement during the 1948 war around Israel’s creation with protests across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Thousands of people streamed to the Gaza-Israel frontier as the militant Hamas group, which controls Gaza, announced a general strike, closing schools and public institutions to allow for a large turnout.

For a year, Hamas has staged protests every Friday along the perimeter fence dividing Israel and Gaza, demanding an end to an Israeli-Egyptian block-



A man holding anti-Eurovision banner confronts an Israeli border policeman as Palestinian marked the 71st anniversary of their mass displacement during the 1948 war around Israel’s creation. Associated Press

ade.

More than 60 Palestinians were killed at last year’s demonstration, which coincided with the opening of the new U.S. Embassy in

contested Jerusalem.

This year’s demonstration, however, comes two weeks after a cease-fire was reached to end a fierce two-day round of

fighting. A Qatari envoy, who has been helping mediate the cease-fire, has urged Hamas to keep Wednesday’s demonstration restrained.

However, Gaza’s health authorities said 60 protesters were wounded, 16 by Israeli live fire and 14 with rubber-coated steel pellets, including three medics, as the demonstrations ended.

In east Gaza City, huge plumes of smoke billowed behind the fence as Israeli farmland caught fire by arson devices launched by the protesters.

The Israeli military said protesters hurled stones and explosives toward troops and approached the fence. “These are terrorist-backed violent riots and

they endanger the lives of innocent civilians,” the Israeli military said.

The demonstrations were marking what is known as the “nakba,” or “catastrophe,” in which hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled or were forced from their homes during the war surrounding Israel’s establishment. Today, there are an estimated 5 million Palestinian refugees across the Middle East.

Hamas said that easing Gaza’s economic hardship was not a substitute for the Palestinian demand for a right of return. “No one will make us forget our cause and we don’t accept that our cause is turned into food and drink,” said Khalil al-Hayya, a senior Hamas official. □



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China voices strength, pushes nationalism around trade war

By YANAN WANG

SAM McNEIL

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — What do tilapia, Jane Austen and Chinese revolutionary poster art have in common?

All have been used to rally public support around China's position in its trade dispute with the U.S., as the ruling Communist Party takes a more aggressive approach — projecting stability and stirring up nationalistic sentiment in the process.

"If you want to negotiate, the door is open," anchor Kang Hui said Monday on state broadcaster CCTV. "If you want a trade war," however, he added, "we'll fight you until the end."

"After 5,000 years of wind and rain, what hasn't the Chinese nation weathered?" Kang said.

The toughly-worded monologue on the banner evening news program followed days of muted official responses to President



A social media post exhorting Chinese consumers to buy more tilapia to offset the effects of China's ongoing economic dispute with the United States is seen on a computer screen in Beijing, Wednesday, May 15, 2019.

Donald Trump's decision to hike tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports. Trump startled financial markets with his May 5 announcement that U.S. tariffs would rise to 25% from 10%

as of Friday.

After negotiations in Washington ended last week with no agreement, China retaliated Monday with higher tariffs on \$60 billion worth of American goods,

raising duties of 5% to 25%. Then came the government's public relations onslaught.

"Overnight, we saw official media — in the People's Daily, China Daily, CCTV

— all run spots about the United States as being a problematic negotiating partner," said Jake Parker, vice president of China operations for the U.S.-China Business Council.

President Xi Jinping, the ruling party's most powerful leader in decades, has made China's foreign policy more assertive while nurturing the growth of a red-blooded but tightly controlled nationalism.

The approach reflects a new willingness to allow a shift in domestic public opinion where the trade war is concerned, Parker said. Weibo, a Twitter-like social media platform which generally censors political discourse, has featured an unusual amount of tariff-related content since Monday. The site's ranking of "trending topics," usually dominated by celebrity news, highlighted Kang's monologue and the subject "American stock market plunges." □

North Korea says it is suffering worst drought in decades

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

North Korea said Wednesday it is suffering its worst drought in nearly four decades amid reports of severe food shortages.

The official Korean Central News Agency said an average of 54.4 millimeters (2.1 inches) of rain fell throughout the country in the first five months of this year. It said that is the lowest level since 1982, when North Korea received 51.2 millimeters (2 inches) of rain on

average during the same period.

The report came after U.N. food agencies said in a joint assessment earlier this month that about 10 million people in North Korea were facing "severe food shortages" after the country had one of the worst harvests in a decade.

In February, North Korea's ambassador to the United Nations, Kim Song, issued an unusual appeal for urgent food assistance.

North Korean officials have

blamed the food shortage on bad weather and international economic sanctions that were toughened after the country conducted a series of high-profile nuclear and missile tests in recent years.

In a high-stakes summit in Vietnam in February, U.S. President Donald Trump rejected North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's call for an easing of the sanctions in return for dismantling his main nuclear complex, a partial disarmament step. □



In this May 6, 2019, photo, North Korea's Kaepoong town is seen behind a North Korean military guard post, bottom, from the unification observatory in Paju, South Korea.

Associated Press

Colombia peace tribunal: Ex-rebel shouldn't be extradited

By **CHRISTINE ARMARIO**

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) —

The special tribunal investigating war crimes during Colombia's decades-long civil conflict ruled Wednesday that a top rebel peace negotiator should not be extradited to the United States on a drug warrant. The nation's chief prosecutor, Nestor Martinez, immediately resigned in protest, calling the Special Peace Tribunal's ruling a slap in the face for Colombia's democracy and the many victims of the armed conflict.

"The evidence is conclusive, indisputable," he said in a terse statement. "This destroys international judicial cooperation."

Seuxis Hernandez, best known by his alias Jesus Santrich, is a blind rebel ideologue who was jailed in April 2018 on accusations that he conspired with three others to move several tons of cocaine valued at \$15 million into the U.S. He has been behind bars in Colombia as the tribunal weighed the question of his extradition.

At issue is whether the alleged crimes took place before or after the signing of the December 2016



In this Dec. 6, 2016 file photo, Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, rebel commander and peace negotiator Seuxis Hernandez, alias Jesus Santrich, flashes a victory hand signal at the end of a press conference in Bogota, Colombia.

peace accord between the government and the country's biggest rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known as FARC. Rebels who lay down their weapons and confess to crimes are spared jail time and extradition but aren't protected for crimes committed after the signing.

An Interpol notice for Santrich's arrest claims he met with cocaine buyers at his residence on Nov. 2, 2017.

During that meeting and subsequent negotiations, he and his co-conspirators allegedly discussed plans for a 10-ton shipment to the U.S., boasting they had access to cocaine laboratories and U.S.-registered planes to move the cargo, the notice says.

Santrich has repeatedly professed his innocence, saying he was the victim of a scheme to put him behind bars for a crime he didn't commit.

In an interview from the La Picota jail with local radio station Caracol, he said the tribunal's ruling marked the final blow to a "dirty setup" orchestrated by the U.S. Department of State and Colombia's chief prosecutor. Supporters of the accord praised the decision as an important show of the tribunal's independence. But the ruling will be another test for Colombia's fragile peace process. Skeptics contend the accord of-

fers terms that are far too generous to ex-rebels after a half-century of conflict between leftist guerrillas, the state and paramilitary groups that left at least 250,000 dead, 60,000 missing and millions displaced. Critics like former President Alvaro Uribe quickly blasted the decision as another indication that the tribunal is too closely aligned with former rebels.

"At the pace we're going, Colombia will end up asking for forgiveness for FARC narco-terrorists for not having surrendered power to them sooner," Uribe quipped on Twitter.

In explaining the decision, the tribunal's magistrates said that the U.S. State Department did not provide the evidence requested and that intercepted audios held up as proof did not clearly indicate Santrich was culpable.

"It's not possible to evaluate the conduct attributed to Hernandez, nor to determine the precise date committed," the judges said.

The tribunal ruled that trying Santrich in Colombia instead of the U.S. is the best way to "consolidate a peace that is stable and durable." □

Crowds protest cuts in federal funding for Brazil schools

By **DIANE JEANTET**

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) —

Tens of thousands joined in demonstrations across Brazil on Wednesday to protest big cuts in federal funding for public education, the first nationwide rallies organized against far-right President Jair Bolsonaro since he took office Jan. 1.

Avenues and public squares in Sao Paulo, Brasilia, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador and Recife were jammed as students and teachers marched against the decision to pare \$1.85 billion from funds for the public education network, from elementary schools to universities. Speaking during a visit to Dallas, Texas, Bolsonaro dismissed the protests, calling student dem-



Students take part in a nation-wide education strike, in Brasilia, Brazil, Wednesday, May 15, 2019.

Associated Press

onstrators "useful idiots" who have "nothing in their heads" and are being manipulated by "a sly minority" in federal universities. Education experts, professors and students say they are particularly worried

about the government freezing 30% of the discretionary budgets at all federal universities, money that goes to pay such things as utility bills, security, cleaning and maintenance work.

Nilton Brandao, president

of one of Brazil's largest teacher unions in higher education, said the second semester at universities, which in Brazil run August-September, will be compromised due to the lack of financing. Brandao said that if the decision is not reversed, universities may not be able to open.

Brandao said the new government should be following the previous administration's 10-year education roadmap that was implemented in 2014.

"We (in Brazil) approved a national education plan, with clear objectives to meet. It's a project that has been approved and that is still in vigor," he told The Associated Press. "The government is ignoring this plan. They don't want to

discuss education." Since the early stages of his presidential campaign, Bolsonaro has repeatedly vowed to improve Brazil's underperforming education system, mostly by ousting what he considers a deeply engrained "Marxist ideology" and by increasing security in violent schools. After assuming the presidency, Once in the presidential office, Bolsonaro spoke of plans to revise school textbooks to excise references to feminism, homosexuality and violence against women. On Wednesday, Bolsonaro said he wished he didn't have to implement the cuts but that he was legally obligated to do so as they are part of a wider effort to slash all government spending. □

LOCAL



Sales Team & Catering Sales Team Award: Renaissance Aruba wins two Global Elite Awards



ORANJESTAD — The Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino keeps elevating in success. In March the Sales Team as well as the Catering Sales Team of Renaissance Convention Center won the regional awards for the entire continent of the Americas based on their 2018 performance. This week Marriott International announced that both teams of the Renaissance Aruba became GLOBAL winners, a major achievement!

Global Elite Awards is celebrated among all who won the regional awards for their region and continents (The America's, Asia Pacific, Europe, and Middle East & Africa). All the 2018 ELITE Award winners are true stars that rose to the top, not by chance but through purpose and passion. Over the past month, the Renaissance Aruba has been celebrating this regional and continent recognition and now it's time to announce that the Renaissance Aruba also won the 2018 GLOBAL ELITE AWARDS for Sales Team and for Catering Sales Team of the year. A huge recognition, knowing that there are over 8,000 properties worldwide. These two Global Elite Awards are the results for always maintaining an ongoing commitment to Excellence, Leadership, Inspiration, Teamwork and Execution.



2018 was another strong year for the destination. RevPAR for the hotels increased with over 10%. The sales team at the Renaissance was able to outperform the destination when it comes to growth percentages year over year due to teamwork, renewed strategies, hard work and dedication.


The Event Satisfaction Survey (ESS) process measures event planner's satisfaction within each premium and luxury hotel. ESS examines how event planners evaluate important aspects of their events and provides critical information to improve planner loyalty, attract new customers, and enhance the brand image. In 2017 the Renaissance Catering Team was ranked 62 with a score of 81.5 for ESS and in 2018 the team was able to increase their ESS score to 96.6 and ended up as the number 3 in the Americas and therefore got recognized for this outstanding accomplishment

About Renaissance Aruba

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Both offer exclusive access to Renaissance Island, a true tropical oasis. Whether you're pampering yourself at Spa Cove, watching flamingos roam, or simply basking in the warm Aruban sun, Renaissance Island is sure to inspire a story worth sharing. Also here to give beachgoers a break from the sand and surf are our luxury private cabanas, along with the Papagayo Bar & Grill and the Mangrove Beach Bar. Besides being the perfect spot for beachgoers, Renaissance Island offers a breathtaking venue for a wedding celebration or a romantic honeymoon escape. Reserve the coveted shores of Coral Beach and experience the start of true marital bliss as you say your 'I dos' surrounded by something blue.

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Aissette Rivera: Paving her own way as a Female Professional in the Aruban Creative Industry

Maastricht – The Creative Islander's "Artist Edition Series" continues its road of featuring a range of diverse Aruban creative students and professionals locally and around the world. Today we are putting the spotlight on other dynamic industries within the Cultural & Creative Industries (CCIs), namely the Broadcasting Industry and Marketing Industry. Generally, the broadcasting industry contains of radio and television stations and networks that create content through a variety of programs, such as; local news, talk shows, music programs, movies, other entertainment forms, and commercial advertisements. Whereas the marketing industry in its practical form usually tends to be associated with business processes which include more creative elements focused on advertising, distribution and selling of goods and services. Now, I am sure you are wondering who the Creative Islander is featuring today. Well, meet Aissette Rivera, a dynamic young female professional paving her way into the Aruban CCI. Read up all about Aissette's story and find out how you can also be successful in this industry.

Aissette Rivera was born in Miami Florida and moved to Aruba at 8 years of age. Aissette is not an unfamiliar face within the Aruban broadcasting community. You might have seen her on your TV screen or maybe even heard her on the radio. Aissette's journey within the Aruban broadcasting industry includes her presence on radio stations such as Canal 90 FM and currently, she is one of the female anchors of the Breakfast Club Program on Heart Radio FM. Her trajectory also includes appearances on TV programs such as Brindis and not so long ago, the first ever English telecast of Aruba's 65th carnival parade. Next to working in the Aruban broadcasting industry, Aissette is also a marketing consultant and serves as a master of ceremonies (MC) for numerous events on the island. When she is not working hard, Aissette enjoys relaxing, singing and planning her next Disney vacation. Remarkably enough, besides being a professional woman, Aissette is also a loving mother to her daughter, Amalia.

Upbringing and Education

Transitioning her life from the US to Aruba, even though at a young age, went relatively smooth. Aissette credits that to growing up in a tight knit family structure, where family support traveled beyond borders. On a more personal level, as a young child Aissette grew up through her dedication for dance. Dancing had a pivotal role in her personal development as a child. "Dance influenced me in so many ways in my life. It taught me about commitment, honoring your word, responsibility, preparation and teamwork. It taught me that can't expect me to be good at everything. I had to practice to become good". In a beautiful way clearly dance allowed Aissette to develop a work ethic that she would carry through her life.

Adapting to her new life in Aruba as a child also meant picking up Dutch at school. However, Aissette was very resilient and had no troubles with her school work and achieving beautiful grades. In 2004, Aissette graduated from the VWO at Colegio Arubano and continued her studies in the United States. Aissette moved to Orlando, Florida where she became a full-time student at the University of Central Florida (UCF) with the assistance of the Aruba Scholarship Program. Upon arrival in Florida, Aissette was determined to major in finance,



unclear of what that would consist of and in what industry she would build her career in. It took Aissette getting an F for her first course, to realize that finance was not going to be her future. That is where Aissette decided together with some council from her advisors to change her major to marketing.

Marketing in Aissette's eyes means having impact, being creative and doing fun things. "I always knew that I was a creative person and that I was mostly into arts as a young child. Since I was three I started with ballet, so I was exposed to art at a really young age and I always liked it". Hence sight, Aissette now realizes that she could have broaden her horizons a bit more by adding majors such as: PR or broadcasting, but felt boxed in her thoughts on becoming this "finance professional". Flairs of feeling self-conscious, according to Aissette definitely impacted her mindset of not considering these options. An experience most of us can relate to.

Balancing Profession and Motherhood

Aissette in her journey of building up her career in the broadcasting and marketing industries realized how beautifully her personality and qualities match with her work field. In her eyes, what it takes to make it in these industries is authenticity, "those spontaneous moments when you get to be



yourself". One evident factor in this story is that as a professional woman in a relatively male dominated field, Aissette is aware of the face value that she does not have the lengthy experience as most broadcasting personalities on the island, but does not let it stop her from following her heart. As in most industries, women frequently face the need of proving themselves or even working harder than others in the business to get that fair chance. Now as a dedicated mother, Aissette expressed that having her family support system allows her to grow in her profession, and she is grateful for that. As a single mother, she confirmed that raising a child nowadays requires not only time but attention. Working in the Aruban creative industry and having the busy schedule that she has, often requires her to work in the weekend or even on week nights. Like the African proverbs states; "it takes a village to raise a child".

The Aruban Cultural and Creative Industries

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Aisette Rivera:

Continued from Page 14

Aisette also shared some thoughts with the Creative Islander on the Aruban CCI. In her eyes, all niche markets are present on Aruba, it is just that the community is not aware of them. Many of these industries are "behind the scene" type of industries and not to mention the gaps that exist between them. However, Aisette does believe that one way the Aruban CCI can grow sustainably is by synergizing it to a current stable economy, such as the Tourism Industry. This would mean focusing on niche

markets such as; advertising and marketing; film, tv, video, radio and photography; music, performing and visual arts; museums, galleries and libraries. Markets who contribute to both the local development and touristic experience.

Looking Towards the Future

Aisette is definitely not done growing and venturing into new opportunities. Her future consists of continuing being able to interact with people, which in her opinion is her favorite part of her job. "We are all people trying to make an impact, be successful and



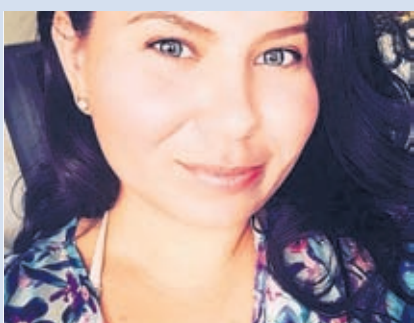
happy. I believe my future will consist of reaching closer to people". Aisette also feels that being the curious person that she is, she might consider other career paths as well. In her words; "who knows it might even be a new business".

Tips and Tricks

Aisette's journey of becoming a broadcasting anchor in Aruba was her own, but has also proved her with enough life lessons to help others who also want to

consider a profession in the CCI. Aisette's tips for students and young professionals include; following your heart and passion; if you know you are talented, start now; make the best use of the opportunities presented in your life; stay away from negative people, even the negative voice within yourself; and focus on your network and building a solid connection with people who are in your field of interest. Surely these tips can inspire and encourage students and young professionals who are eager to jump and make the next move into a successful future.

To finish, the Creative Islander would like to thank Aisette Rivera for sharing her story with the Aruban community. Her story represents the beauty of growth and is a testimonial of how dynamic and diversified the CCI is. The Creative Islander wishes Aisette all the best in her future endeavors and hopes to see more of her work in the broadcasting industry of Aruba. □



Biography – Currently, Thaïs Franken is a 23-year-old Aruban student at the University of Maastricht (UM). She is studying a Master of Science in Public Policy and Human Development in collaboration with the United Nations University (UNU). Back home, on the beautiful island of Aruba she completed her Bachelor of Arts in Organization, Governance & Management (OGM) at the University of Aruba (UA). She successfully graduated and defended her thesis titled "Placing Culture and Creativity at the Heart of the Aruban Sustainable Development" on July 6th 2018. Thaïs is very passionate about topics such as sustainability, innovation, culture and creativity. Next to her academic interests, she enjoys reading, writing, dancing and cooking.

Honoring of loyal Visitors at Costa Linda Beach Resort



NOORD — Recently, Marouska Heyliger had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors. The certificates presented to the honorees are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination.

The honorees were:

Willem Burgemeestre and **Martine van Streun** from **Oegstgeest**
Ted and **Voula Leakes** from **New Jersey**
Jeffrey and **Maureen Kahl** from **New York**.

These lovely people stated that they love coming to our island because of the friendly people, the beautiful weather, the white sandy beaches and the delicious cuisine.

Heyliger together with Mr. Luigi Heredia, General Manager of Costa Linda Beach Resort, presented the honorees with the symbolic honorary title on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their home away from home for so many years. □

Experience Oranjestad's Maritime tradition



ORANJESTAD — Foundation Rancho will organize a walking tour on International Museum Day, this coming Saturday. This is the opportunity to learn about the maritime traditions, the past and future and the connection with a living neighbor-

hood in the harbor. You will see expositions, experience the living traditions, and see the future of the maritime culture of Rancho.

Rancho is one of the oldest parts of the town Oranjestad and is located close to

Paardenbaai. Characteristic to this neighborhood are the monuments and the immaterial cultural heritage. In origin Rancho was a fisher's village, mentioned for the first time in archives of 1855 and in 1912 on the maps of the Dutch cartog-

rapher J.V.D. Werbata. The village consisted of some simple huts, constructed in a similar way the inhabitant Indians used. These huts were the housings for fishermen and seafaring traders who brought their trade – legal or illegal- ashore here. Foundation Rancho was founded on 20 April 2010 with the aim to document and preserve the culture

and history of the Rancho neighborhood. The walking tour will take place on Saturday May 18th at 4.00 PM. The tour will start at Centro Di Actividad Rancho, Koningsstraat 38. Tour will be translated in English!

For more information: stichtingrancho@gmail.com or call us at +297 562 8352. www.stichtingrancho.org □



SPORTS



Duke's Zion Williamson arrives for the NBA basketball draft lottery Tuesday, May 14, 2019, in Chicago.

Associated Press

New Orleans wins NBA draft lottery, right to pick No. 1

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Zion Williamson has never been to New Orleans.

That may be changing very soon.

The Pelicans bucked seriously long odds Tuesday night, winning the NBA draft lottery and the right to have the first chance at selecting the former Duke star next month — and potentially pairing him with Anthony Davis, in what would immediately become one of the league's most intriguing frontcourt duos.

"I don't believe the universe makes mistakes," said David Griffin, who is barely a month into his tenure as New Orleans' executive vice president of basketball operations. "I just think we have something special going on."

Griffin doesn't play the lottery, unless the jackpot is one of those billion-dollar-type enormous ones.

Continued on Page 18



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) shoots a 3-point basket as Portland Trail Blazers center Enes Kanter (00) watches during the second half of Game 1 of the NBA basketball playoffs Western Conference finals in Oakland, Calif., Tuesday, May 14, 2019.

Associated Press
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NBA DRAFT

Continued from Page 17

Maybe he should. The ping-pong balls seem to bounce his way a lot.

Griffin was with Cleveland when the Cavaliers won the lottery in 2011, 2013 and 2014. And now it's the Pelicans, his new employer, which has struck lottery gold. They defied the odds to do it; the Pelicans entered the lottery with a 6% chance of winning the No. 1 pick for the June 20 draft. So now, instead of going into a summer where they may have traded Davis — the player New Orleans got when it won the lottery in 2012, the player who was openly disgruntled this season — the Pelicans have a chance at becoming much better, and fast.

"This just jump-starts the process," Griffin said. "It'll be harder for me to mess it up than it would have been before this."

Memphis will choose second, New York third and the Los Angeles Lakers will pick fourth. The Pelicans, Grizzlies and Lakers all moved up to get a top-four spot; New York, Phoenix and Cleveland had the best odds of winning the lottery at 14% each, and none of those clubs even

got a top-two pick.

The lottery had a new format this year, one that the league hoped would even the playing field in a number of ways and didn't make all-out tanking a more enticing option to teams looking to maximize their chance at securing the No. 1 pick.

The Knicks, Suns and Cavs didn't have much interest in winning this season, with none winning more than 19 games. The ping-pong balls apparently weren't interested in having them win the lottery, either.

"I don't think you should ever not play to win basketball games," Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry said. "I don't see where it would help you."

Cleveland will pick fifth, followed by Phoenix, Chicago and Atlanta. Washington has the No. 9 pick, Atlanta goes again at 10 and Minnesota is at No. 11. Charlotte is next up, followed by Miami at 13 and Boston at 14. That pick was conveyed to the Celtics by Sacramento as part of an earlier trade.

The Hawks felt they were big winners, too, after getting two top-10 picks.

"There are always good players," said Hawks guard



David Griffin, New Orleans Pelicans executive vice president of basketball operations, holds up placards after it was announced that the Pelicans had won the first pick during the NBA basketball draft lottery Tuesday, May 14, 2019, in Chicago.

Associated Press

Kevin Huerter, the No. 19 pick in last year's draft and part of Atlanta's contingent at the lottery. "Every team just has to go out and find them."

UCF center Tacko Fall, the 7-foot-6 draft hopeful, played against Williamson in the second round of the NCAA tournament — a 77-76 Duke victory that went down to the very last moment, a game where Williamson scored 32 points. Fall was asked Tuesday who he would take with

the No. 1 pick in this draft, and he did not hesitate for even a second before answering.

"Zion," Fall said. "He's a once-in-a-generation player. I'd seen him on TV a lot, but when you play against this kid, you just see it. He's different."

Murray State's Ja Morant, projected by many as a strong candidate to be chosen No. 2 overall, was among the players in the audience viewing the proceedings.

"I don't have any reaction," Morant said. "I was just excited to be here and be in the position that I'm in and just to see how it all played out. Honestly, I don't know what number or where I'll land. Obviously, whatever team drafts me, I'll be happy to go there and bring it every night."

Williamson was one of three now-former Duke starters at the lottery — R.J. Barrett and Cam Reddish were among the invited players as well. □

WNBA hires Deloitte CEO Engelbert as commissioner

By **DOUG FEINBERG**
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The WNBA has a new leader with a new title.

The league hired Cathy Engelbert as its commissioner on Wednesday. The previous four leaders of the WNBA had been known as president. Since 2015, Engelbert has been CEO of Deloitte US, an accounting organization that works with Fortune 500 companies. She was the first woman to hold that job.

"Cathy is a world-class business leader with a deep connection to women's basketball, which makes her the ideal person to lead the WNBA into its next phase of growth," NBA commissioner Adam Silver said. "The WNBA will



In this Sept. 20, 2018 file photo, Deloitte CEO Cathy Engelbert participates in the Yahoo Finance All Markets Summit: A World of Change at The Times Center in New York.

Associated Press

benefit significantly from her more than 30 years of business and operational experience, including revenue generation, sharp entrepreneurial instincts and proven management abili-

ties."

She replaces Lisa Borders, who stepped down in October. NBA deputy commissioner Mark Tatum has been the interim president since Borders left.

"It is an absolute privilege to be joining the WNBA at such an exciting and important time in its history," Engelbert said. "I see tremendous opportunity to bolster visibility for the sport of women's basketball, empower the players and enhance fan engagement. I look forward to using my business expertise and passion for basketball to promote women in the game and beyond, and to working with the teams and world-class athletes to help grow this league into a thriving business."

Engelbert will start on July 17 once her term as CEO of Deloitte concludes.

One thing the new commissioner will have to deal with relatively quickly is the collective bargaining agree-

ment. The players opted out of the current contract at the end of last season. This season will still be covered by the current CBA.

It's been an active off-season for the league, which begins its 23rd season on May 24. The WNBA announced a deal with CBS earlier this month to broadcast 40 games on CBS Sports Network. The WNBA also signed AT&T as a top sponsor, added new uniforms by Nike and re-branded itself with a new logo. The league also had a promotional tie-in with the highly successful "Captain Marvel" movie in February and oversaw the sale of the New York Liberty to an investment group led by Brooklyn Nets minority owner Joseph Tsai. □

Curry, Warriors take Game 1 of Western Conference finals

By JANIE McCAULEY

AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) —

Stephen Curry had all kinds of room for a change and capitalized, finding his shooting touch in a hurry to get Golden State on a roll. Portland's defenders were too far back in the paint or a step behind all night.

"Practice shots," Trail Blazers star Damian Lillard said of Curry's wide-open chances.

So far, the Warriors are showing they can keep winning until Kevin Durant gets healthy.

Making it look easy again, Curry knocked down nine 3-pointers on his way to 36 points, leading the two-time defending champions past the Trail Blazers 116-94 on Tuesday night in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals.

"I know what I'm capable of on the floor. The situation calls for me to be a little bit more aggressive and hopefully that'll continue," said Curry, who came in shooting 37.1% on 3s this postseason. "Obviously it's nice to see the ball go in. I didn't shoot the ball well for 4 1/2 games the last series and got off to a good start tonight. I want to maintain that. Every game is different, you've got to re-establish yourself. That's my perspective no matter how



Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry (30) shoots between Portland Trail Blazers' Maurice Harkless (4), Enes Kanter (00) and Damian Lillard, right, during the first half of Game 1 of the NBA basketball playoffs Western Conference finals Tuesday, May 14, 2019, in Oakland, Calif.

I play."

Curry shot 12 for 23 in his fourth 30-point performance this postseason, finding far more open looks than he had in the last round against Houston. The two-time NBA MVP outplayed the Portland duo of Lillard and CJ McCollum, who combined to go 11 for 31 against a strong Golden State defense.

"It's good to see Steph have a game like that at a time that obviously we

need him most," Draymond Green said.

Klay Thompson had 26 points, including a late one-handed slam. Green established the energy on both ends early for the well-rested Warriors, finishing with 12 points, 10 rebounds, five assists, three blocks and two steals.

Lillard scored 19 points back home in Oakland, just miles away from where he grew up. He appreciated all the support but wants to

stick to basketball.

"That's part of what makes it special, I'm from here," Lillard said. "I could walk home from here if I wanted to, that tells you how close it is."

McCollum had 17 and missed five of his six 3s as the cold-shooting Blazers went just 7 for 28 from long range.

Game 2 is Thursday night, and the Warriors are unlikely to have Durant back from a strained right calf.

An update on Durant's status is expected that day once the two-time reigning NBA Finals MVP is re-examined.

"I think we played a terrible game and we still had a chance going into the fourth quarter," McCollum said, "so we need to tighten some things up and look forward to the game on Thursday."

Curry came off screens with authority and matched his postseason career high for 3s, also accomplished in Game 1 of last year's finals against Cleveland. He found his groove far earlier than in the Game 6 clincher at Houston on Friday night, when he scored all 33 of his points in the second half.

Little brother Seth struggled with three points for Portland, which shot 36.1% overall.

"It's not one-and-done. We've got a series, it's one loss," Blazers coach Terry Stotts said. "We've got to play better, particularly at the offensive end, but we've got to be better at both ends."

Lillard hit a game-winning 3-pointer with 6.3 seconds remaining in overtime Dec. 27 in his last regular-season game at Oracle Arena. He averaged 28.3 points and 6.5 assists in four regular-season games against Golden State this season. □

Magic Johnson, Larry Bird to get Lifetime Achievement Award

By BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Magic Johnson and Larry Bird, whose coast-to-coast rivalry in the 1980s propelled the NBA to a new level of popularity, will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Hall of Famers and 1992 U.S. Olympic teammates will receive the award on June 24 at the NBA Awards, the league and Turner Sports announced Wednesday.

The honor comes on the 40th anniversary of their meeting in the 1979 NCAA

championship game, when Johnson's Michigan State team beat Bird's Indiana State squad. That is still the highest-rated game on television in college basketball history.

The two would see plenty more of each other across the next decade after Johnson went to the Los Angeles Lakers and Bird to the Boston Celtics. The Lakers won five championships in the 1980s and the Celtics won three, and the interest they drew forged a friendship and helped the NBA move past its struggle for mainstream attention

and set the stage for basketball to become one of the world's most popular sports.

Both players won three MVP awards, earned spots on the league's list of 50 greatest players and were two-time Hall of Fame inductees, first as individuals and then with the Dream Team that captured the gold medal in Barcelona. Bird went on to serve as both coach and president of the Indiana Pacers and is the only person in NBA history to be voted MVP, Coach of the Year and Executive of the Year.



In this Monday, April 6, 2009 file photo, former NBA players Earvin "Magic" Johnson, right, and Larry Bird share a laugh at a news conference before the championship game between Michigan State and North Carolina at the men's NCAA Final Four college basketball tournament in Detroit.

Associated Press

Johnson also held both roles with the Lakers, though not with the same level of success. He served a short stint as coach (1993-94) and recently stepped down as team president after two seasons. His larger achievements since his

playing days have come in the business world as CEO of Magic Johnson Enterprises.

Bill Russell was the first Lifetime Achievement winner in 2017 and Oscar Robertson was honored last year. □

Bruins beat Carolina 2-1, take 3-0 series lead

By **JOEDY McCREARY**

AP Sports Writer

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Tuukka Rask and the Boston Bruins stood tall during an early deluge of shots and penalties, patiently waiting for their chance to take over the game. Then one big burst put them on the brink of another trip to the Stanley Cup Final. The Bruins beat the Carolina Hurricanes 2-1 on Tuesday night, taking a 3-0 lead in the Eastern Conference final after Chris Wagner and Brad Marchand scored 5:07 apart in the second period.

"The moral of the story is, we got through the first period — however you want to describe it — and off we went after that," coach Bruce Cassidy said.

Rask stopped 35 shots for the Bruins, who have won six straight postseason games for the first time since 1978. They are one victory away from their third Stanley Cup appearance in nine years. Boston will go for the sweep on Thursday night.

"This year, I feel like we really have each other's backs," Rask said. "We've been in some tight games, and then our depth comes in, and we score some goals and we take over the games."

Calvin de Haan scored and Curtis McElhinney made 29 saves for the Hurricanes while starting in place of



Carolina Hurricanes' Micheal Ferland (79) and Nino Niederreiter (21), of Switzerland, try to score against Boston Bruins goalie Tuukka Rask (40), of Finland, while Bruins' Zdeno Chara (33), of Slovakia, and Charlie McAvoy (73) defend during the first period in Game 3 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Eastern Conference final series in Raleigh, N.C., Tuesday, May 14, 2019.

Associated Press

Petr Mrazek, who allowed 10 goals in the first two games of the series.

This one was closer, but it still wasn't enough to keep alive Carolina's postseason perfection at home — where a pig named Hamilton looks on from behind the corner boards.

"There's no way around it. There's no way to sugarcoat it," Carolina coach Rod Brind'Amour said. We got kicked in the you-know-where."

And now they're in an unenviable spot. Only four teams in NHL history have ever rallied to win a series they trailed 3-0, and none

since Los Angeles in 2014 — though Carolina captain Justin Williams was on that Kings team that rallied to beat San Jose in the first round. "I'm probably going to give you ... the clichés that are going to be thrown to you and everything," Williams said.

This one got away from them in the first 7½ minutes of the second, when the Bruins claimed control with their fourth line turning a turnover by Carolina's Brock McGinn into a 1-0 lead at 1:21.

Sean Kuraly collected the puck and passed low to Joakim Nordstrom, with the

former Hurricane then finding Wagner alone in front for a tap-in.

"That line scored a goal by playing the right way, pursuing pucks," Cassidy said. "They're fourth-liners. You don't expect them to make a tic-tac-toe play, but they did, and good for them." The Bruins entered with the NHL's best postseason power-play unit — converting on a full third of their chances in the playoffs — and they were 1 of 5 in this one with the man advantage against a Carolina penalty kill that began with a sub-50% success rate in this series.

But that one goal was a significant one.

With 19 seconds left on a high-sticking minor on Nino Niederreiter, Marchand put Boston up 2-0 when his shot from between the circles trickled past McElhinney.

It loomed large because the Hurricanes pulled within a goal when de Haan's slap shot off a draw got through Rask's pads for the defenseman's first goal since Nov. 8. The Bruins thought Torey Krug had an insurance goal with 15:45 left, but the officials ruled Jake DeBrusk interfered with McElhinney — a decision that was confirmed after Boston's challenge led to a review in Toronto.

After stopping 20 shots in the first period alone — and becoming the first Boston goaltender since Tim Thomas in 2011 with that many in a postseason period — he remained difficult for the Hurricanes to figure out. Thwarting perhaps their best chance to tie it, Rask stuffed a slick power-play redirection by Jordan Staal with just under 13 minutes left. "Probably right now," Cassidy said, "is the best I've seen him play."

This one was chippy throughout, with 14 penalties — 10 in the first period alone. That includes six by Boston and three by Williams, who also took his team's only two penalties in a 6-2 loss in Game 2. □

Patrick Kane sets U.S.-scoring record at world championship



Alex Debrincat of the US, right, celebrates with teammates Patrick Kane, left, and Derek Ryan, center, after scoring his sides fourth goal during the Ice Hockey World Championships group A match between the United States and Great Britain at the Steel Arena in Kosice, Slovakia, Wednesday, May 15, 2019.

Associated Press

KOSICE, Slovakia (AP) — Patrick Kane scored a goal and had two assists to become the United States' all-time leading scorer at the world hockey championship in 6-3 win over Britain on Wednesday.

The three-time Stanley Cup champion and two-time Olympian finished the game with 36 points, surpassing the 33 points U.S. Hockey Hall of Famer Mark Johnson had in the tournament. Johnson led the Americans with 11 goals when they won Olympic gold in 1980.

"It's special when you

think of all the great American players, all the kids that grow up in the USA, dreaming of playing hockey, dreaming of playing for their country," Kane said.

"I've really enjoyed this tournament. This is my third time over here. It would be really nice to win it more than anything. The personal achievements and accolades are pretty nice, too."

The Americans won bronze last year at the world championship in Denmark, where Kane had a tournament-high 20 points

and was named MVP. Kane's first appeared at the world championship in 2008, when the U.S. was eliminated in the quarterfinals with a loss to Finland. Kane has helped the U.S. win three straight games in Group A since opening with a loss to the host Slovaks. The Americans have preliminary-round games remaining against Denmark, Germany and Canada.

Germany scored twice over the final 1:52 against Slovakia, rallying to win 3-2 to remain the only unbeaten team in Group A. □

Guerrero Jr. hits 2 HRs, Blue Jays beat Giants 7-3

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Vladimir Guerrero Jr. homered twice to become the third-youngest player to hit his first two major league homers in the same game in Toronto's victory over San Francisco.

Guerrero, who finished with three hits and four RBIs, became the youngest in franchise history to go deep as the Blue Jays won the opener of a six-game trip after losing five of six on a homestand in which they totaled eight runs.

Trent Thornton (1-4) pitched three-hit ball into the sixth inning for his first major league win. He struck out seven and overcame five walks.

The 20-year-old Guerrero homered in the first inning against Giants opener Nick Vincent (0-2). He added an even more impressive blast in the sixth off Reyes Moronta, a three-run drive estimated at 451 feet.

The only players younger than Guerrero to hit their first two home runs in the same game are Brian McCall in 1962 (19 years, 248 days) and Manny Machado in 2012 (20 years, 35 days).

Pablo Sandoval homered for San Francisco.

PADRES 6, DODGERS 3

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Joc Pederson and Cody Bellinger hit two-run homers, Clayton Kershaw threw seven solid innings and Los Angeles beat San Diego in the opener of a two-game series.

Pederson and Bellinger homered in the third inning against starter Chris Paddack (3-2) and helped the Dodgers get their third win in four meetings against their NL West rivals.

Kershaw (3-0) allowed three runs and five hits. The left-hander struck out five as he recorded his third victory in his last four starts. Kenley Jansen worked the ninth for his 13th save.

Manny Machado had three hits — including a 441-foot, two-run shot in the fourth — in his first game back at Dodger Stadium since signing with San Diego during the offseason.



Toronto Blue Jays' Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hits a single against the San Francisco Giants during the second inning of a baseball game in San Francisco, Tuesday, May 14, 2019.

Franmil Reyes homered and had two hits for San Diego, which has dropped three of its last four. Paddack surrendered six runs, three earned, on five hits with three strikeouts.

CARDINALS 14, BRAVES 3

ATLANTA (AP) — St. Louis hit four home runs, including three-run shots by Marcell Ozuna, Yadier Molina and Kolten Wong, and beat struggling right-hander Mike Foltynewicz and Atlanta.

Jack Flaherty (4-3) did not allow a hit through four innings. St. Louis led 11-0 before Flaherty gave up three runs and three hits in the fifth.

The 2019 struggles for Foltynewicz (0-3) continued. He gave up eight runs, matching his career high, while lasting only 4 2/3 innings.

Foltynewicz, a 2018 All-Star, saw his ERA climb to 8.02 in four starts. He began the season on the injured list with a bone spur in his right elbow.

Atlanta's first hit off Flaherty in the fifth was Brian McCann's broken-bat dribbler against the defensive shift toward an abandoned third base. McCann scored on pinch-hitter Charlie Cul-

bertson's single to left. Ronald Acuna Jr. drew a bases-loaded walk off Flaherty to force in a run.

St. Louis outhit the Braves 14-3. Every Cardinals starter, including Flaherty, had at least one hit.

METS 6, NATIONALS 2

WASHINGTON (AP) — Wilson Ramos hit a first-inning grand slam after Washington failed to complete what should have been a routine double play, Noah Syndergaard took a no-hitter into the sixth, and New York beat the slumping Nationals.

The Mets have won three games in a row. The Nationals lost for the 11th time in 15 games.

Syndergaard (3-3) allowed two runs and four hits in eight innings. The first hit he allowed was a single to right by Wilmer Difo to open the sixth, and Victor Robles followed with a homer off a 98 mph fastball.

Ramos, who used to play for the Nationals, connected with a low 80 mph offering from Jeremy Hellickson (2-2) and sent it out to left for his second homer.

Hellickson went five-plus innings, charged with five runs and six hits.

Dominic Smith, pinch-hit-

ting for Syndergaard in the ninth, hit his first homer of the year.

BREWERS 6, PHILLIES 1

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Brandon Woodruff threw one-hit ball for six innings, Yasmani Grandal and Ryan Braun homered and Milwaukee topped Philadelphia.

The Phillies survived a scare when Bryce Harper made a sliding catch on a foul ball to right field and banged his left knee into the wall in the sixth. Harper came up limping but remained in the game and made an almost identical catch to end the inning. He received a standing ovation only to get booed after striking out again in the eighth.

Woodruff (6-1) allowed only an infield single to Jean Segura in the first, walked five and struck out five.

Philadelphia's Jerad Eickhoff (2-2) gave up five runs and eight hits in four innings.

Segura's RBI single off Corbin Burnes in the eighth knocked in Philadelphia's only run.

CUBS 3, REDS 1

CINCINNATI (AP) — Kyle Hendricks had three hits, including a two-run double, and pitched into the ninth inning as Chicago beat

Cincinnati.

The Cubs are 10-2 in May, their best start to the month since 1977. Chicago has won 22 of 28 games for the NL's best record at 25-14.

Hendricks (3-4) gave up a pair of singles and Joey Votto's homer in the fourth inning, but those were Cincinnati's only hits. He left after walking Nick Senzel to open the ninth. Steve Ciskhek got the last two outs for his third save in four chances.

Willson Contreras had a sacrifice fly off Tanner Roark (3-2) for Chicago's other run. Kris Bryant had three hits and extended his career-best streak to 23 consecutive games reaching base safely. Javier Baez singled twice and extended his hitting streak to a career-high 12 games, the longest by a Cub this season.

PIRATES 6, DIAMONDBACKS 2

PHOENIX (AP) — Josh Bell homered twice and Joe Musgrove allowed one hit through seven strong innings as Pittsburgh Pirates beat Arizona.

Phoenix native Cole Tucker hit a two-run homer in the top of the eighth inning to cap off the victory.

The Pirates snapped a nine-game losing streak to the Diamondbacks that dated to last season. Pittsburgh has won four of its last five.

Carson Kelly homered and Adam Jones drove in David Peralta to account for the Diamondbacks' runs.

The only hit Musgrove (2-4) allowed was a fourth-inning single to Eduardo Escobar. He struck out five and walked two.

Diamondbacks starter Luke Weaver (3-2) allowed three runs on seven hits in six innings. Arizona has lost four of five. □



Rockies rally past Red Sox 5-4, spoil Sale's 17 K effort

By The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Red Sox ace Chris Sale struck out a career-high 17 in just seven innings before getting pulled after 108 pitches on a chilly Tuesday night, and the Colorado Rockies rallied against Boston's bullpen to win 5-4 in the 11th. Sale became the first pitcher in major league history to fan 17 in a start of no more than seven innings. Boston pitchers combined to strike out 24, but the Red Sox had their five-game winning streak stopped.

Mark Reynolds, whose fifth-inning double was the first runner allowed by Sale, drove in the go-ahead run with a two-out single in the 11th off Ryan Brasier (2-2). Sale struck out the first six batters and fanned eight through three innings. He topped his previous best of 15 strikeouts, which he had done three times. The All-Star lefty had a shutout through six innings. Nolan Arenado's two-run homer in the seventh was one of only three hits managed by the Rockies against Sale. Mike Dunn (1-0) got the win with one inning of scoreless relief and Wade Davis got his seventh save.

Charlie Blackmon also homered for the Rockies. Michael Chavis, J.D. Martinez and Rafael Devers homered for Boston.

Kyle Freeland got the start for Colorado on his 26th birthday and went six innings, allowing three runs on five hits, striking out seven and walking three.

TWINS 4, ANGELS 3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Mitch Garver hit a two-run homer and tagged out Shohei Ohtani trying to score the tying run in the eighth inning before leaving with an injury, helping Minnesota hold off Los Angeles.

Garver hit his ninth homer in the third to give Minnesota a three-run lead behind Kyle Gibson (4-1). Byron Buxton added an RBI double the next inning, and five relievers combined for 3 1/3 scoreless innings, with Blake Parker getting his seventh save in seven chances.

Ohtani had three hits, including an RBI single as



Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Chris Sale delivers against the Colorado Rockies during the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at Fenway Park in Boston.

part of a three-run sixth, but he was thrown out at third base in the sixth and at home in the eighth after Brian Goodwin's single to center. The Twins lead the majors with 16 home runs and 38 RBIs from the catching position, also getting strong contributions from Castro and Williams Astudillo. Cam Bedrosian (1-2) took the loss for Los Angeles, serving as the opener for primary pitcher Felix Peña. Bedrosian gave up one run and two hits in one inning. Gibson cruised through five innings before running into trouble in the sixth. He allowed three runs, six hits and two walks in 5 2/3 innings.

MARINERS 4, ATHLETICS 3

SEATTLE (AP) — Daniel Vogelbach, Tim Beckham and Mitch Haniger homered and Roenis Elias pitched out of a bases-loaded jam in Seattle's win over Oakland.

Haniger's deep two-run shot into the second deck in left field in the fifth inning broke a 2-2 tie, and Elias stopped a bases-loaded threat with two outs in the seventh with a strikeout, as the Mariners sent the A's to their third straight loss, and

fourth in six games.

Mike Leake (3-4) gave up five hits and struck out six. He was chased after 6 2/3 innings when Oakland cut it to 4-3 on an RBI single by Robbie Grossman in the seventh inning.

A's starter Brett Anderson (4-3) gave up just six hits and struck out five in six innings.

ASTROS 11, TIGERS 4

DETROIT (AP) — Carlos Correa started another Houston onslaught with a three-run homer in the first inning, and the Astros routed Detroit, extending their winning streak to seven games. The Astros, who have won 10 of 11, scored in each of the first six innings against a depleted Detroit pitching staff. George Springer hit an inside-the-park homer in the fifth, and Aledmys Diaz went deep in the third for Houston.

Wade Miley (4-2) allowed four runs in six innings for the Astros. Houston led 7-0 after its half of the third.

Ronny Rodriguez homered for Detroit. Ryan Carpenter (0-2) made his second start of the season and allowed seven earned runs in four innings.

Springer circled the bases

in the fifth when his drive to right-center field bounced off the wall and past center fielder JaCoby Jones. It was the first inside-the-park home run of his career, and Houston led 9-2.

The Astros have scored 45 runs in their last four games.

RAYS 4, MARLINS 0

MIAMI (AP) — Charlie Morton pitched six strong innings and Avisail Garcia homered and drove in three runs in Tampa Bay's win over Miami.

Morton (4-0) gave up three hits and struck out five while throwing 82 pitches before he was pulled for a pinch hitter in the top of the seventh inning.

Garcia had a solo homer and two RBI singles for the Rays in the opener of the two-game series against their cross-state interleague rivals. Garcia finished the scoring with an infield single with the bases loaded in the ninth.

Miami starter Caleb Smith (3-1) didn't last past the sixth inning for the first time since his opening start on April 1. He allowed two runs and four hits, while striking out eight and walking two in 5 1/3 innings. The Marlins lost their sixth straight and

ninth in the last 10.

Relievers Emilio Pagan, Diego Castillo and Chaz Roe pitched the final three innings for Tampa Bay.

INDIANS 9, WHITE SOX 0

CHICAGO (AP) — Jordan Luplow hit two of Cleveland's five homers and Carlos Carrasco cruised through seven innings in a rout of Chicago.

Roberto Pérez, Jake Bauers and José Ramírez also went deep as the light-hitting Indians muscled up against Manny Bañuelos and Josh Osich to end Chicago's three-game winning streak. The 25-year-old Luplow has hit all four of his homers this season against Chicago and three off Bañuelos.

Carrasco (4-3) scattered six singles and struck out six, while walking none, in his second straight solid start. Oliver Pérez, Dan Otero and A.J. Cole combined to complete the seven-hitter. Bañuelos (2-3) yielded five runs on four hits and three walks before leaving the game with none out in the fifth with left shoulder soreness.

ROYALS 11, RANGERS 5

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Hunter Dozier drove in three runs, top prospect Nicky Lopez had an RBI single in his big league debut, and Kansas City routed Texas.

Alex Gordon and Jorge Soler also drove in two runs apiece for the Royals, who scored nine times in the first two innings while quickly knocking Rangers starter Shelby Miller from the game.

Danny Duffy (2-1) was only marginally better for Kansas City, using 107 pitches just to survive five innings. He allowed four runs, seven hits and a walk while striking out seven.

Miller (1-3) was pulled with two outs in the second after allowing eight runs and seven hits with two walks.

Rangers shortstop Elvis Andrus left with tightness in his right hamstring after grounding out to end the seventh inning. He will be evaluated again Wednesday. Joey Gallo had a pair of RBIs for the Rangers, who stranded runners in four consecutive innings. □

Heavyweights step up, just not against each other

By TIM DAHLBERG

AP Sports Columnist
Tyson Fury, the big British heavyweight who breaks into song at the most unexpected moments and would be fun to meet for a beer, will be fighting next month. So will his countryman, Anthony Joshua, who will venture across the pond to make his Garden debut. And then there's Deontay Wilder, who kicks things off Saturday night with another chance to press his case that he is, like Mike Tyson liked to say, the baddest man on the planet.

No, they're not fighting each other, for reasons both as old as boxing itself and as new as the DAZN streaming service. Still, the three top heavyweights in the world — all of whom can legitimately claim the title of champ — will be in action in New York and Las Vegas within a four-week stretch.

And should things go as planned, that's just enough time to bring some clarity to a heavyweight division that is suddenly must-see TV once again.

"The excitement is back in the heavyweight division," Wilder said. "The fire is lit." That's somewhat true, even if Fury is fighting a relatively unknown German named Tom Schwarz instead of a

rematch with Wilder while Joshua is defending his titles against a late substitute in Andy Ruiz Jr. Wilder might be taking the biggest risk in his title defense against Dominic Braezeale, whose loss to Joshua is the only blemish on his pro record. Just how long the fire is expected to smolder, though, may be of most concern to boxing fans.

Joshua and Wilder should have been made by now, even if it might be even bigger next year because of the wait. Wilder and Fury should be fighting a rematch this summer, but money and boxing politics put a quick end to those plans. Wilder says Joshua is ducking him and that Fury wants no part of a rematch after almost being knocked silly only to get back up in the final round of their fight in December that ended in a draw.

Fury and Joshua say that's nonsense and that Wilder shouldn't talk so much.

"I am ready for Wilder, I've been ready for Wilder," Joshua said last week after arriving in New York and inspecting Madison Square Garden for his American debut June 1 against Ruiz, who got his shot at Joshua's titles after Jarrell Miller tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs.



Britain's Tyson Fury shows off his shirt which has drawings of former world heavyweight champions on it during the press conference at the BT Sport Studio, London, Monday May 13, 2019.

Associated Press

"I've done a good job maintaining my place and he is the guy I want. He has a lot to live up to. I've got confidence flowing now." That confidence could get another boost against Ruiz, a roly-poly fighter out of Southern California who doesn't look like a world beater but has lost only once in 33 fights. Ruiz fought just last month, and was eager to get the call to replace Miller.

Perhaps just as important for Joshua's confidence is

a big performance while venturing outside his native Britain for the first time. Joshua drew 90,000 for his fight last year with Wladimir Klitschko at Wembley Stadium and is wildly popular at home, but largely unknown in the U.S. and is looking to make a dramatic debut.

"I know the history that has been here and the sports that have been here," he said at his Garden visit. "When I come in here to fight June 1, it will be very special."

In a perfect world, Joshua, Wilder and Fury would be fighting each other, of course. Any thoughts of a quick rematch after the draw between Wilder and Fury went out the window when Fury signed with Top Rank, which has a deal for fights with ESPN.

Wilder, meanwhile, is sticking for now with Showtime for his fight Saturday night. And Joshua has a contract with DAZN, a streaming service that touts access to big fights for \$100 a year. □

Ackermann wins rainy Giro stage 5, Roglic stays in lead

TERRACINA, Italy (AP) — Pascal Ackermann of Germany sprinted to victory at the end of the rain-affected fifth stage of the Giro d'Italia on Wednesday, while Slovenian cyclist Primož Roglic kept the overall lead. It was Ackermann's second stage win in his first Grand Tour after the 25-year-old Bora-Hansgrohe rider also took home Sunday's second leg. Ackermann edged out Fernando Gaviria and Arnaud Demare in a bunch sprint at the end of the mainly flat but wet 140-kilometer route from Frascati to Terracina. "It was a two-time sprint to-

day. I had to brake at 250 meters to go but luckily Gaviria became the perfect lead-out man for me," Ackermann said. "It was scary all day under the rain. All the stage was scary and sprint was scary because you can't see much. It was cold all day."

The rain was so relentless that race organizers decided that times would be taken on the first passage of the finish line in Terracina before the final nine-kilometer loop in order to avoid another crash like the one that marred Tuesday's fourth stage. That crash split the peloton in half inside

the final six kilometers and allowed Roglic to gain precious seconds over his rival. It also led to 2017 champion Tom Dumoulin abandoning the race a kilometer into Wednesday's stage as he was in too much pain after injuring his left leg in the crash.

"I came here for a three-week adventure and I wanted to finish it and I'm not ready to go home yet," Dumoulin said. "I didn't want to be home and in two days time, be able to ride when the swelling goes down and be sad that I abandoned so I needed to try and push through with



Germany's Pascal Ackermann celebrates as he sprints ahead of Colombia's Fernando Gaviria, left, to win the fifth stage of the Giro D'Italia, tour of Italy cycling race, from Frascati to Terracina, Wednesday, May 15, 2019.

Associated Press

some painkillers today and it might've been possible. "I would've always asked myself that question and now I can ask myself and I know the answer." Roglic, who has worn the

leader's pink jersey since winning the opening time trial on Saturday, remained 35 seconds ahead of British cyclist Simon Yates and 39 ahead of home favorite Vincenzo Nibali. □

Tribes across country push for better internet access

By FELICIA FONSECA

Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — In a remote, roadless Arizona canyon that is home to a small Native American tribe, there's a natural skepticism toward the internet.

The telemedicine equipment that health care officials promised would work gathers dust. School children who have online homework struggle to get online. And streaming a web-based conference or taking classes remotely? Well, "that's a lot of luck you'd have to get," said Ophelia Watahomigie-Corliss, who sits on the Havasupai Tribal Council.

Things started to change after a small company approached the tribe with a plan to broaden coverage for educational use. It's now using the experience to help push the federal government to give tribes priority for broadband spectrum largely unassigned across the western United States.

The Federal Communications Commission has not issued any new permanent licenses for the Educational Broadband Services spectrum in more than 20 years. It asked the public a year ago to weigh in on possible changes to the licensing system to better define geographic areas, build in flexibility, create priorities for tribes and educational institutions, and



This undated photo provided by Amy Martin shows Ophelia Watahomigie-Corliss, a member of the Havasupai Tribal Council, at Red Butte, a site that the Havasupai consider sacred about 15 miles south of Tusayan, Ariz.

possibly auction off the 2.5 GHz-band spectrum. It's not clear when the FCC will act. The agency estimates that about one-third of the people living on tribal lands don't have access to high-speed internet, but others say the figure is twice as high. That's partly because homes on remote reservations are spread far apart. And tribes say large telecommunications companies are unwilling to expand to tribal lands because of the cost.

The internet on the Havasupai reservation has been a mixed bag. Tribal employees could sign on to their email and do internet searches but not much else. Public access for 450

residents was centered on the community building in the village of Supai. Thousands of tourists who trek 10 miles (16 kilometers) down a winding trail to see the reservation's famed blue-green waterfalls have no internet access at their campsites away from the village.

The tribe began working with a company called MuralNet in 2017 to get teachers and students better access. They successfully sought temporary authority from the FCC to use the Educational

Associated Press
Broadband Services spectrum — a sort of channel of electromagnetic waves — that wasn't being used. Flagstaff-based Niles Radio Communications helped build the network.

"We're really putting our chips on EBS," said Mariel Triggs, chief executive of MuralNet. "It works in extreme cases. It's cheap; it's reliable."

Jacqueline Siyuja now has a wireless router to take online classes for her job at the tribe's Head Start program. A few years ago, she and her colleagues had to

fly out of the canyon and drive more than two hours to a community college in Flagstaff for classes. She also had to take her young daughter with her.

Jordan Manakaja eventually wants to get her bachelor's degree and become a therapist in the community. She prefers online classes at home where she can interact with an instructor.

"We have the opportunity to wind down and get comfortable before we're in a classroom," she said. "That was more beneficial to us mentally."

The tribe won't know whether it can make other plans for the spectrum, like using telemedicine, transmitting medical records electronically or starting an online high school, until the FCC decides whether to grant the tribe's application for a permanent license. Nearly 2,190 licenses that generally cover a 35-mile radius have been granted to 1,300 licensees, according to the FCC. The agency has asked for public comment on realigning the boundaries of the licenses, eliminating the educational use requirement, and allowing tribes, current licensees or new educational entities to access unassigned spectrum before a possible auction. □

New security flaw in Intel chips could affect millions

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — Intel has revealed another hardware security flaw that could affect millions of machines around the world.

The bug is embedded in the architecture of computer hardware, and it can't be fully fixed.

"With a large enough data sample, time or control of the target system's behavior," the flaw could enable attackers to see data thought to be off-limits, Bryan Jorgensen, Intel's senior director of product assurance and security, said in a video statement.

But Intel said Tuesday there's no evidence of

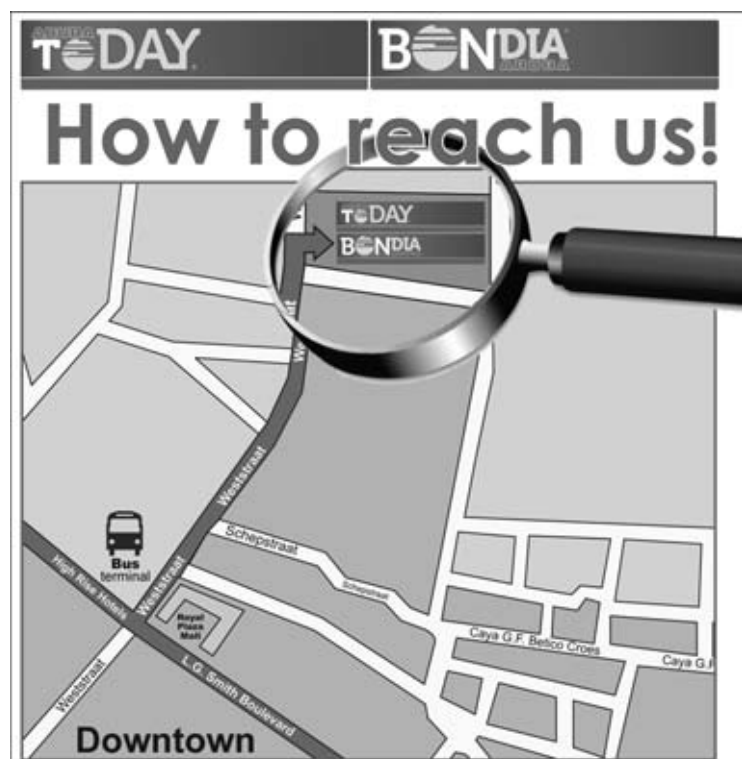


In this Oct. 3, 2018, file photo the Intel logo appears on a screen at the Nasdaq MarketSite, in New York's Times Square.

Associated Press

anyone exploiting it outside of a research laboratory. "Doing so successfully in

the real world is a complex undertaking," Jorgensen said. □



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On the Money: More grocers are offering delivery

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Want to ditch the shopping cart? Grocery delivery services are growing rapidly, but shoppers need to decide if the convenience is worth the higher cost.

Big companies like Amazon and Walmart are expanding grocery delivery, as are regional players like FreshDirect. Grocery chains like Kroger and Safeway are working with third party delivery services like Instacart or developing their own services.

Groceries have been slower to migrate online than books, clothing and other items. Online grocery sales make up 3% of the \$800 billion food retail market, according to a recent report by Deutsche Bank. That's expected to climb to 12% by 2025 as services grow and stores offer more options, like online ordering for pickup.

Offerings vary. Customers can pay per delivery or with an annual fee. Orders under \$35 generally cost more. Some companies promise delivery in one or two hours. Others, like Peapod, offer next day service. Delivery during peak times may cost more.

Sometimes shoppers pay the same price they would in the store. In other cases, they pay more for each item to cover the processing cost. Shipt says members can expect to pay \$5 more per \$35 order when



In this Nov. 9, 2018, file photo a sign promotes online and home delivery of groceries at a Walmart Supercenter in Houston.

they shop through its website versus shopping in a store.

Haar estimates the services save her at least two hours per week.

"This is one small way to take care of myself that is so much better than a massage or pedicure and costs less," she said.

For some, grocery delivery is more than a convenience. Maryjo Harper, a retired insurance claims manager and minister who lives in Wilsonville, Oregon, started using Instacart a little more than a year ago while she was recuperating from rotator cuff surgery.

Harper still uses the service a couple of times a month, especially in the winter.

She pays \$3.99 per delivery plus service fees. But she's a reluctant user, partly because she feels Instacart isn't transparent about its fees. She recently paid \$3.69 on Instacart's website for green leaf lettuce, for example, but on the actual receipt from Safeway — where it was purchased — the lettuce cost \$1.19.

There are other downsides to delivery. Customers might miss an interesting new product or a good deal. Picky shoppers might not like what's selected for them. And some customers have complained that delivery drivers won't go to certain neighborhoods.

Still, Tobie Stanger, a senior editor with Consumer

Reports, said delivery is a good option for many people.

"There is a cost savings in terms of time, if your time is money," she said.

Customers can save money by ordering online and picking up the groceries themselves, Stanger said. That's already a free option at 2,100 U.S. Walmart stores; 3,100 will have it by the end of this year, the company says. Albertsons Companies, which operates Safeway and other grocery chains, offers online ordering and pickup at 250 stores. At some it's a free option; at others the company charges \$3.95 or \$4.95 per order.

Here are details on some of

the biggest delivery operators:

— Instacart: Founded in 2012, Instacart is now one of the largest grocery delivery services. It has partnerships with 20,000 stores in 5,500 North American cities, including Costco and Aldi. Instacart charges \$99 for an annual subscription — or \$9.99 monthly — which gives consumers free delivery on orders of \$35 or more and lets them shop at warehouse stores like BJ's Wholesale without a membership. Instacart will also deliver from its partner stores to non-members for \$3.99 (or \$8.99 from member-only warehouse stores) plus a 5% service fee.

— Shipt: Shipt was launched in 2014 and bought by Target Corp. in 2017. It delivers from Target and other grocery stores in 260 cities. An annual plan is \$99, although the company was recently offering a Mother's Day special for \$49. Membership includes free delivery for orders over \$35. Shipt charges \$7 for orders under \$35.

— Walmart: Walmart offers delivery from 1,000 stores, and plans to expand that to 1,600 by the end of this year. It partners with third party delivery companies like DoorDash. Customers must order at least \$30 worth of goods for delivery. They pay the same price they would in store. Walmart charges \$7.95 (or \$9.95 at higher demand times) to deliver. □

Mutts



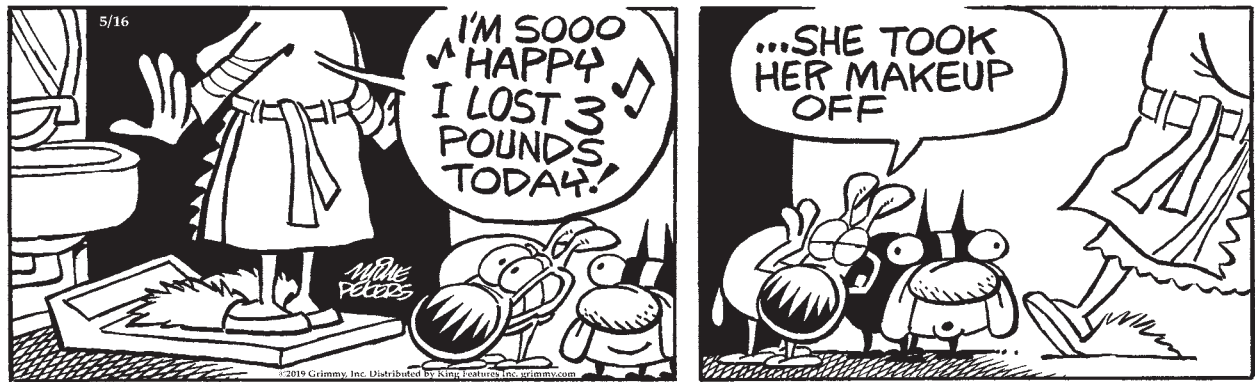
6 Chix



Blondie



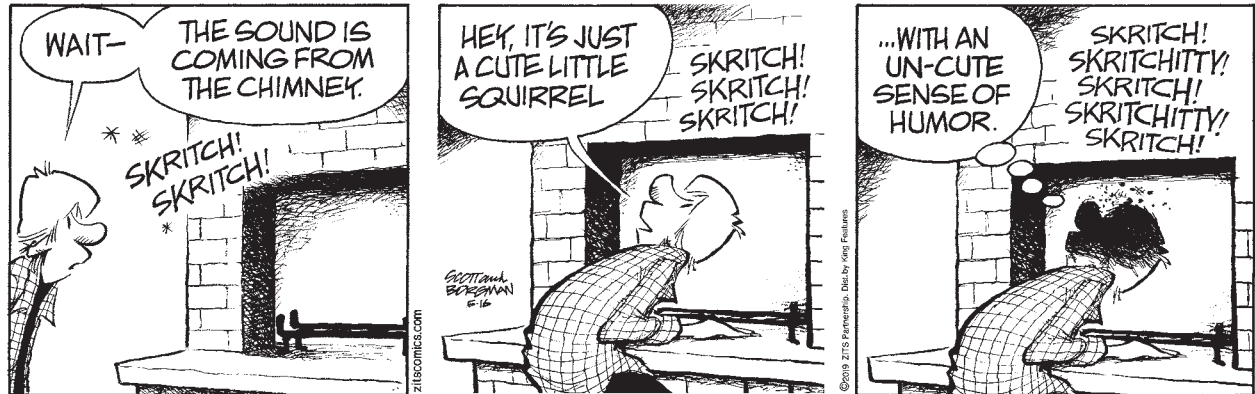
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | | | 4 | | 7 | | | 1 |
| | | | | 1 | | | | |
| | 3 | 2 | | | | 5 | 7 | |
| 3 | | | | 4 | | | | 7 |
| | 1 | | | | | | 6 | |
| 5 | | | | 8 | | | | 9 |
| | 2 | 8 | | | | 4 | 5 | |
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| 4 | | | 6 | | 9 | | | 2 |

Difficulty Level ★★★

5/16

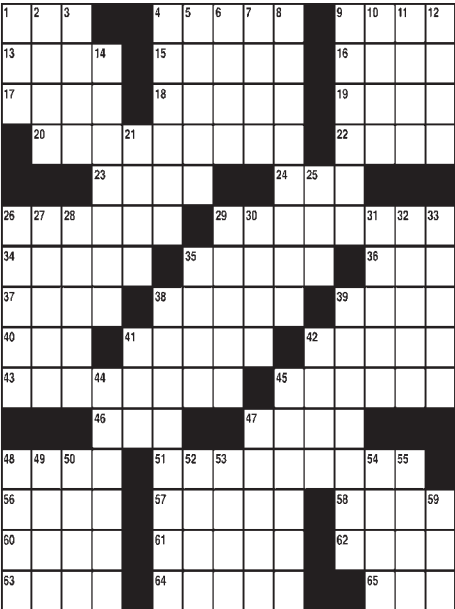
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 4 |
| 7 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 1 |
| 5 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 2 |
| 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 1 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 3 |
| 9 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| 2 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 7 |
| 4 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 8 |

ACROSS

- 1 Isn't ___ to; probably won't
4 Panama hat material
9 In ___; jokingly
13 Neighbor of Pakistan
15 Long for
16 Sore
17 Horse's gait
18 Become frayed
19 Facial feature
20 Fatigue
22 "The ___ Ranger"
23 Military bugle call
24 Barn dinner
26 Firstborn of several
29 About to happen
34 Wetland
35 Sleeper's vision
36 Uncooked
37 Babysitter's bane
38 ___ out; muffle
39 French cheese
40 ___ McMuffin; fast-food breakfast
41 Levi's
42 Piece of garlic
43 Esteems
45 Flew high
46 Feasted
47 Healing ointment
48 Stylish
51 Taking into custody
56 Track-and-field event
57 Some SeaWorld performers
58 Lunchtime
60 "One Flew ___ the Cuckoo's Nest"
61 Two strokes under par
62 Cowboy Autry
63 Moistens
64 Gown
65 Actor Ayres



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/16/19

- 5 Prefix for formed or fixed
6 Rant and ___; carry on
7 5th & Pennsylvania; abbr.
8 Cardiff resident
9 Actress Smith
10 Repeat exactly
11 Lower leg part
12 Actress Daly
14 Most orderly
21 Impulsive
25 Goal; ambition
26 Glowing bit of coal
27 By and ___; on the whole
28 Tows along behind
29 Actor Jeremy
30 Kitten cries
31 Mistake
32 Innocently trusting
33 Rough woolen fabric
35 "Phooey!"
38 No longer with us

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

| | | |
|------------|------------|-------|
| FRY | OASIS | AIMS |
| LIED | PLACE | PLEA |
| ARCS | PINEAPPLES | |
| CSI | MOVED | RESTS |
| PHASE | MIA | |
| SPRUCE | BEDLAM | |
| IRON | SPADE | LOW |
| LICK | SKIDS | BLUE |
| TEA | SPIRE | POETS |
| SLALOM | TAUGHT | |
| MAT | MALTA | |
| OFTEN | SPIRE | TAG |
| WRONGDOING | BIDE | |
| NERD | OUNCE | OOZE |
| SEES | GREET | ONE |

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5/16/19

DOWN

- 1 Feel rotten
2 Front of a ship
3 Sticky strip
4 Study material for an actor

- 39 Pointing the finger at
41 New York athlete
42 Barn youngster
44 Indiana team
45 Talks back
47 With ___ on; eagerly
48 Noisy bird
49 "'Tis better to ___ loved and lost..."
50 Popular rapper
52 Raise, as kids
53 In a ___; furious
54 Christmas carol
55 "___ with the Wind"
59 Word in 4 U.S. state names

37 spotted seal pups rescued from China traffickers released

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Animal rights groups on Saturday cheered the release of 37 spotted seal pups rescued from traffickers into the wild in northern China in a small victory for efforts to save the country's endangered species. Humane Society International said the pups were discovered three months ago by police in a shed in a remote coastal farm in the northern Chinese city of Dalian, many of them starving and dying. Eight suspects were arrested in the operation. The society's Chinese partner, VShine, sent a representative to participate in the release by the Dalian authorities. It said the pups had been taken from the wild by traffickers for the aquarium industry and for display in aquariums, shops and restaurants. Another 29 pups could not be rescued and died, having been only about 2 weeks old when found and not yet weaned from their mothers. Earlier this month, an initial batch of 24 pups was released. Once hunted for their use in traditional Chinese medicine, spotted seals are now a protected species in China, although they are often stolen from their mothers to supply commercial venues. □

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Classifieds

Halley Time Travel

Marriott Ocean Club

Platinum Season

1 BR Ocean View \$10 K
2 BR Ocean View \$ 18K
2 BR Ocean Front \$ 28 K
Gold Season

1 BR Ocean View \$ 6 K
2 BR Ocean View \$8 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$12 K

Marriott Surf Club

Platinum Season

2 BR Garden View \$15 K
2 BR Ocean View \$17 K
2 BR Ocean Side \$18 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$27 K

Marriott Surf Club

Gold Season

2 BR Garden View \$7K
2 BR Ocean View \$ 8K
2 BR Ocean Side \$ 9 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$12 K
3 BR Ocean View \$15 K
Many more weeks available

Casa Del Mar

2 BR wk # 20 Ground floor
Pool/ ocean view \$10K

Divi village

Studio wk # 21 building B
3rd floor 30 weeks remain \$5K

Amsterdam Manor

1 BR wk # 22 groundfloor
Pool/ocean view \$5 K

Aruba Divi Phoenix

Studio wk # 19 building 7 \$7K
6 th floor 30 weeks remain
Studio wk # 24 building 6 \$7K
6th floor 30 weeks remain

Aruba Divi Phoenix

1 BR wk # 18 & 19 building 6
5th floor 31 weeks remain \$ 10K each

Divi Village

2 Br Town House wk #24
Building C 3rd floor elevator
39 weeks remain expire 2034
\$13K

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'Zombie cells' buildup in your body may play role in aging



This April 2019 microscope photo provided by the Niedernhofer Lab of the Institute on the Biology of Aging and Metabolism at the University of Minnesota shows two senescent human fibroblast cells, above, next to normal ones in Minneapolis, Minn.

Associated Press

By MALCOLM RITTER

AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Call them zombie cells — they refuse to die.

As they build up in your body, studies suggest, they promote aging and the conditions that come with it like osteoporosis and Alzheimer's disease. Researchers are studying drugs that can kill zombie cells and possibly treat the problems they bring.

Basically the goal is to fight aging itself, which hopefully will in turn delay the appearance of age-related disease and disabilities as a group, says geriatrics specialist Dr. James Kirkland of the Mayo Clinic in Roch-

ester, Minnesota. That's in contrast to playing a "whack-a-mole game" of treating one disease only to see another spring up, he said.

The research has been done chiefly in mice. Earlier this year, the first test in people was published and provided some tantalizing results.

Zombie cells are actually called senescent cells. They start out normal but then encounter a stress, like damage to their DNA or viral infection. At that point, a cell can choose to die or become a zombie, basically entering a state of suspended animation.

The problem is that zom-

bie cells release chemicals that can harm nearby normal cells. That's where the trouble starts.

What kind of trouble? In mouse studies, drugs that eliminate zombie cells — so-called senolytics — have been shown to improve an impressive list of conditions, such as cataracts, diabetes, osteoporosis, Alzheimer's disease, enlargement of the heart, kidney problems, clogged arteries and age-related loss of muscle. Mouse studies have also shown a more direct tie between zombie cells and aging. When drugs targeting those cells were given to aged mice, the animals showed better walking speed, grip strength and endurance on a treadmill. Even when the treatment was applied to very old mice, the equivalent of people ages 75 to 90, it extended lifespan by an average of 36 percent.

Researchers have also shown that transplanting zombie cells into young mice basically made them

act older: their maximum walking speed slowed down, and their muscle strength and endurance decreased. Tests showed the implanted cells converted other cells to zombie status.

Kirkland and colleagues this year published the first study of a zombie-cell treatment in people. It involved 14 patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, a generally fatal disease that scars the lining of the lungs. Risk rises with age, and the lungs of patients show evidence of zombie cells.

In the preliminary experiment, after three weeks of treatment, patients improved on some measures of physical fitness, like walking speed. Other measures did not show improvement. Overall, the results are encouraging and "it really raises enthusiasm to proceed with the more rigorous studies," said Dr. Gregory Cosgrove, chief medical officer of the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation, who

played no role in the study. The field of zombie cells is still young. But Kirkland estimates at least a dozen companies have formed or have launched efforts to pursue treatments. He holds shares in one.

Apart from age-related diseases, anti-zombie drugs might be useful for treating premature aging among cancer survivors that brings on the early appearance of some diseases, said Laura Niedernhofer of the University of Minnesota.

Some of these drugs have been approved for other uses or are even sold as supplements. But Niedernhofer and Kirkland stress that people should not try them on their own, nor should doctors prescribe them, for the uses now under study because more research has to be done first. Niedernhofer said the best drugs may be yet to come. The goal is not to prevent stressed cells from turning into zombies, she said, because they may become cancerous instead. The aim is to trigger death of cells that have already transformed, or to limit the harm they do.

And what about giving them to healthy people who want to ward off aging? That's possible but a long way off, after studies have established that the drugs are safe enough, she said.

"We may not get there," Kirkland said.

In any case, experts are impressed by the research so far.

"I think this is very exciting," said Dr. George Kuchel of the University of Connecticut Center on Aging in Farmington. The results from animal studies are "very spectacular. It's very compelling data."

Nir Barzilai, a researcher of aging at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, said he believes targeting zombie cells will play a role in the overall effort to delay, stop and maybe reverse aging.

So much research suggests they promote aging that "we know that it should be true," he said. □



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Optimus Prime, Megatron remember 35 years of Transformers

By **DAVID FISCHER**

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — The Autobots have been waging their battle to destroy the evil forces of the Decepticons for 35 years, but there's no sign the men who voice the Transformers franchise's two most iconic characters would ever take up ion blasters or fusion cannons against each other.

Peter Cullen and Frank Welker have been heard in children's homes across the United States since the fall of 1984 as the heroic Optimus Prime and villainous Megatron respectively.

They continue to lend their voices to both live-action and animated versions of the characters, and they'll be infinitely more like to exchange jokes and old stories than deadly blows from a laser sword during appearances Thursday and Friday at MegaCon Orlando.

Transformers originated when the U.S. toy company Hasbro bought the rights to several existing Japanese toy lines that featured transforming robots and rebranded them for American children. A cartoon, "The Transformers," was developed to help market the toys. Welker, 73, got his first major voice-acting role in 1969 as Fred, the handsome, ascot-wearing leader of Mystery Inc. in "Scooby Doo, Where Are



In this Tuesday, June 20, 2017 file photo, Peter Cullen, left, and Frank Welker pose for a photo at the U.S. premiere of "Transformers: The Last Knight" at the Civic Opera House in Chicago.

Associated Press

You!" He spent more than a decade after that voicing a host of friendly and comedic characters.

"When I saw Megatron, it gave me an opportunity to play a very nasty, evil character, and it was so much fun," Welker said during a combined interview with Cullen.

Welker said he was especially impressed the first time he saw the toy of his character. It transformed into a silver and grey Walther P38 pistol. Welker said it would take him more than an hour to transform the toy, while young fans could do it in minutes.

"I was thinking this is just another job, but it's pretty darn clever," Welker said.

While the original cartoon ran just a few years, it left an indelible mark on pop culture. The toy lines continued, and a slew of spin-off cartoon series and comics were produced over the next two decades. This culminated in the launch of a multi-billion-dollar, live-action film franchise in 2007. Before his audition, Cullen, 77, only knew that he would be reading for the part of a truck, though giving voice to a vehicle didn't seem that crazy.

"You're always auditioning

for something in animation that's a little off of the norm," Cullen said.

When Cullen read about the heroic Autobot leader that turned into a red cabover semitrailer, he thought about his older brother, who had served as a U.S. Marine in the Vietnam War. "He was my hero, and he certainly was the mainstay behind the character," Cullen said. "I just did an impression of Larry, and he's still alive in my mind today because every time I do Prime, there's my brother Larry."

Cullen's brother, Capt. H.L. Cullen, died in 2011 and

was interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

When performing as Optimus, Cullen's warm tenor voice drops to an authoritative baritone. The voice has stayed consistent over the years, from various animated series to live-action films. Welker said Megatron's voice, on the other hand, has changed with nearly every iteration.

Welker's natural speaking voice is essentially the voice he's used to play Shaggy and Scooby's pal Fred for 50 years. But when he was cast as Megatron in the original cartoon series, he said he gave the evil Decepticon leader a contemptuous, mechanical rasp. When he returned to the character for a new animated series in 2010, following the success of the live-action films, he said producers wanted him to sound more human, to reflect what actor Hugo Weaving had done with the role in the live-action films. And after Weaving left the franchise, Welker said he adjusted the voice further when he took over as Megatron in the latest live-action movies.

In recent years, Cullen and Welker have been attending conventions around the country to meet with fans from multiple generations.

"It can bring tears to your eyes," Cullen said. "I'm not exaggerating." □

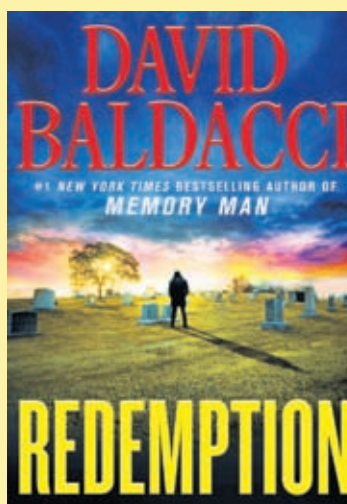
A gravesite meeting starts David Baldacci's thriller

By **JEFF AYERS**

Associated Press

"Redemption" by David Baldacci (Grand Central) In David Baldacci's latest, Amos Decker and his FBI partner Alex Jamison arrive in a small town in Ohio where Decker was a detective for several years. He visits his family's gravesite every year on his daughter's birthday. This year someone else is at the graveyard as well.

Meryl Hawkins looks vastly different to Decker, so he doesn't recognize him at first. Hawkins was Decker's first homicide case, and



This cover image released by Grand Central Publishing shows "Redemption," by David Baldacci.

Associated Press

he was found guilty and given life in prison without the possibility of parole. So how can he be a free man now?

Hawkins reveals that he is terminally ill, and only has a little bit of time to live. He was released for compassionate reasons, and the first thing he did was track down Decker to inform him that the former cop and now FBI consultant made a mistake all those years ago. He never committed the murders, and the real culprit is still at large.

Decker can replay every memory, and his by-

the-book approach has been successful for him so far, and the evidence was rock solid. Convicting Hawkins was easy. But why would a dying man seek him out if he wasn't innocent?

His boss at the FBI wants Decker to move on, but he can't. If he was wrong, he has to make it right. When he follows up with Hawkins at his hotel room, he's surprised to find the former convict already dead, but due to a gunshot wound to the head rather than cancer. Now he won't rest until he finds the truth,

even at the expense of his colleagues at the FBI and his former associates in the police department who used to work alongside him.

Baldacci turns up the suspense and surprises at a rapid pace in "Redemption" without sacrificing character or story.

With the personal stakes and the steep learning curve that Decker must overcome to find justice, the narrative carries a heavier emotional impact. Essentially, this is another great novel from a master storyteller. □

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This cruise line rivals Broadway with 134 shows, 50 theaters

By KELLI KENNEDY

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — In a nondescript building in North Miami, two dozen dancers in bouncing yellow skirts are high kicking the can-can, aerialists are spinning perilously high from silk cords and frantic seamstresses are hemming outfits in a 20,000 square-foot costume shop. They are all part of a company that puts on more live productions a year than Broadway and London's West End combined.

Royal Caribbean International's cruise line directs 134 shows in 50 theaters on 26 ships around the world, including seven Broadway-originating shows, eight aqua shows, 18 ice shows and dozens of original musicals.

"We have a nightly audience of about 100,000. It is by scale a very, very large operation. Probably under one roof, the biggest in the world," said Nick Weir, senior vice president of entertainment. "At any one time, there's 1,500 to 1,800 cast members employed to make this all come to life."

It takes two to four weeks for an army of dancers, singers and aerialists to learn a show before they're dispatched to ports as far away as Australia and China.

On a recent afternoon, dancers roamed the halls in crop tops and buns. One stretched into a wide split on the floor. There are 14 dance studios, 15 rehearsal rooms, a recording studio, gymnasiums and auditorium. Exercise equipment lines some hallways. Nearby are living accommodations for 470 of the performers.

Often dismissed in the past as second-tier, cruise entertainment has evolved to a genre that Royal Caribbean says commands some of the best talent and technology around.

Several of the main characters in "Mama Mia" are from the Broadway version of the show. While New York theater has struggled to turn profits with its small,

intimate venues, fickle crowds and finite real estate, the cruise industry's onboard audience is grow-

ing exponentially. "There are so many people who want to be doing this," said Taryn

hundreds of girls ... it's very competitive. There are so many people who want to be doing this," said Taryn

tion was inevitable as more sophisticated cruise audiences — accustomed to seeing shows in spots like the hiss of a steam iron. One of the head seamstresses is busy completing a white sequin ballroom dress, with flowing feathers and a rhinestone studded bodice. The cruise line makes its own costumes and must coordinate fittings for dozens of shows.

The cast on each ship performs not one, but three shows — a Broadway musical like "Hairspray" or "Grease," a ballroom style show and a pop show. The shows are upbeat and family oriented and chosen to appeal to a wide audience — nothing too sexual or intellectual.

Scheduling all the rehearsals is more precise than the choreography. The new casts arrive, rehearse and depart to sea at a dizzying pace every few weeks. It takes exactly 26 days to train a new cast to perform the musical "Cats."

Typical theater productions will rotate in new cast members periodically, but Royal Caribbean prefers to sign performers to roughly nine-month contracts. They spend a few weeks learning three shows from scratch and then head to sea. When it's over, the cruise line casts a new set of performers and begins again.

Staging a show at sea has its own challenges and quirks. Performers need extra core strength to adapt to rough waves and pitching ships. If a costume is ripped, there's no one to run to the store.

There are also perks that even the most legendary theaters on land can't compete with — picturesque ports, free meals, room and board, the chance to interact with the audience and the sense of onboard community not found at other venues where performers simply go home each night.

"You definitely become more of a family," said Mya Carpenter, a 22-year-old dancer who performed in Paris before joining Royal Caribbean. "You come to know people inside and out. They're friends for life." □



In this March 19, 2019 photo, performer Montana Moore dances during a rehearsal at Royal Caribbean's entertainment training facility in North Miami, Fla.

Associated Press

Royal Caribbean is building five ships in the coming years, each with a custom-built theater with sophisticated stages and high-tech effects. A few years ago, they built a small plane with a 22-foot wingspan that now flies over the audience in every production of "FLIGHT: Dare to Dream."

"The stages that they have on the ships, the technology is far better than it ever was on a Broadway stage, even 10 years ago," said Greg Graham, who was the resident choreographer for "Billy Elliot" on Broadway before coming to the cruise line to choreograph "Hairspray."

Roughly 3,000 hopefuls showed up to recent auditions for "Hairspray" in New York and London.

Weir said the casting operation is massive, culling talent from 75 cities a year auditioning nearly 25,000 performers last year alone. "At my audition there were

Borman, a 21-year-old Australian dancer, who's performing on a ship for the first time in a new show with aerialists and contortionists. She'll head to Asia with the cast in a few weeks.

Singer and dancer Oli Reynolds, 26, wrapped up a starring role in London's West End production of "Mama Mia" and came back to Royal Caribbean where he's reprising the same role.

"I think there's still a stigma about cruise ship performing ... historically, a lot of focus on the performing, it was more about the destinations," said Reynolds, who stressed that's changed. "People come from Cirque du Soleil, they come from Vegas, they come from London, they come from Broadway and it is a progression in my career for me."

John Kenrick, a musical theater historian and adjunct professor at New York University, says the evolu-

Vegas and Atlantic City — are demanding better entertainment.

"It's certainly upped the game. (Cruise theater) used to be a little better perhaps than summer stock just with better costumes," said Kenrick, adding "it's definitely improved. I can't say it's Broadway."

Every performance on every ship worldwide is rehearsed at the roughly 133,000 square-foot facility where the halls are literally alive with the sounds of music.

In one room, dancers with black top hats are perfecting choreography to "All That Jazz." Across the hall, six singers are harmonizing a number from "Once Upon a Time." In a recording studio next door, the walls reverberate with what sounds like theme music from an adventure movie. At the massive costume shop, the hum of a sewing machine where a seamstress works on a gold glitter costume competes with

Basking in the Tuscan Sun

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

Associated Press

CORTONA, Italy (AP) — After my breast cancer diagnosis and as I was going through what would be more than a year of treatments that included chemotherapy and radiation, I vowed I would return to Italy. Both sets of my grandparents emigrated from there, and I always turned to Italy as a source of comfort.

At first, I wasn't sure what part of Italy I would travel. The last time I was there was in 1998. But when my sister and brother-in-law invited me for a one-week stay at a villa in Cortona in Tuscany, I knew my plans were set.

My plan was to spend a week in Rome with a friend. Then, I would join my sister and brother-in-law and their friends on the second leg of the trip. I had never been to Cortona, the walled medieval hilltop town popularized by Frances Mayes' memoir "Under the Tuscan Sun," later made into a movie. We would use Cortona, nestled near the border of the Umbria region, as our base and then travel to different parts of Tuscany.

I hoped to be inspired by one of Italy's most romanticized regions, with its cultural and artistic legacy, its post-card views of rolling hills dotted with stone farms and medieval castles, and its food — simple but flavorful. And just maybe, I could reconnect with my



This Sept. 10, 2018 photo shows a view from the top of medieval hill town Cortona, in the province of Arezzo in the Tuscany region of Italy.

relatives on my mom's side who lived in the Siena area. I hadn't seen them since 1984, and we had lost touch over the years after my grandfather and great uncle in the United States passed away.

But my experience was beyond what I expected. By staying at the villa, I was able to have a deeper understanding of the Tuscan culture and live like a Tuscan resident. We shopped for groceries at the local supermarket, cooked dinner at the house, and went on walks among the fields of sunflowers, olive trees and grapevines. We washed clothes and hung them out to dry (dryers are not the norm in Italy). I woke up to the crowing of roosters. And I met a wonderful

group of residents including American-born chef Ryan Hanley and his Italian wife Debora Mazzierli; we visited their centuries-old Tuscan stone home for cooking classes.

We stayed at the villa Il Barattino, which had a swimming pool, washing machine, satellite TV and free Wi-Fi connections. It rented for little over \$800 a night and sleeps 12 and is managed by Cortona-based Hill Towns Tours, which manages villas in Tuscany. The villa consisted of two buildings, which combined had six bedrooms. If you rent a villa with friends, you can cut the cost of the rental fees and the car rentals. And we saved money by eating in a few nights using the spacious kitchen

and outdoor dining areas. Location is key. Our villa, set apart from the main road, was about seven miles to the town center. Cortona is about an hour drive to key medieval hill towns like Assisi and Montepulciano, home of the Vino Nobile wines. And you could take a train from Cortona to Florence.

Every day, we looked forward to a new activity, some we planned on our own; others were planned by Mazzierli, who also acted as our tour guide. She gave us a tour of San Galgano, where we visited the gothic style 13th century abbey which no longer has a roof, as well as San Gimignano, known for its many medieval towers. Another day, we went wine tasting.

Associated Press



This Sept. 13, 2018 photo shows Anne D'Innocenzio, standing right, right, and her sister, Donna Burke, posing with their Italian relatives in Torrita di Siena, Italy.

Associated Press



This Sept. 9, 2018 photo shows sliced Chianina T-bone with arugula, parmesan shavings and peppercorns prepared by local Tuscan chef Ryan Hanley at Il Barattino, the villa in Cortona, Italy.

Associated Press

We first visited a local small winery called Leuta. Then, we went to Montepulciano, where we visited the family-run Ercolani winery's wine shop and then toured its underground wine cellars and its medieval museum — and then sampled its wine with cheese and salami. On the days to ourselves, we wandered the medieval streets of Cortona's center, and spent some time at the Etruscan museum. In Assisi, we visited the Basilica of St. Francis, where we saw the famous Giotto frescos.

Every meal was an epicurean feast. Among the highlights; eating pici pasta at La Loggetta, overlooking the main square in Cortona, sampling the massive seafood platter at Morgan's, which overlooked Lake Tresimano, and tasting the sumptuous zucchini flower appetizer at Osteria del Teatro in Cortona. In Assisi, I had a delicious melon and prosciutto salad at Le Terrazze di Properzio, which offered breathtaking panoramic views of the town. One of the most intimate food experiences? The cooking class at the home of Hanley and Mazzierli. We cooked such dishes as zucchini flan, Tuscan ragu sauce, and stuffed tomatoes with rice under their supervision. And we made our own pici pasta, made with flour, water and olive oil. Mazzierli encouraged us to "eat with our heart, not with our stomach."

And yes, my sister and I — armed with a GPS and a 30-year old address my mom gave us — did connect with our relatives, the most magical moment of my trip.

They showed us family photo albums. My cousin Antonio showed us a spool of thread that my grandfather had given him years ago from his clothing factory. To him, it was the symbol of the American dream. They called other relatives, and soon, the house was packed. The pasta came out, followed by sauteed chicken, pickled zucchini and vanilla gelato. Our hearts were full. □